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Michigan Nonprofit Association Releases Statement Following Verdict in Minneapolis

While Tuesday was a momentous and historic day, we cannot forget that true justice is a world where George Floyd is still alive. True justice is his daughter Gianna being able to hug her father, and Mr. Floyd laughing and talking with his siblings at a family reunion. The fact that millions of people around the country were on pins and needles about the outcome of the verdict tells us that we are far from the end of this fight against inequality. It took a recording, multiple witnesses, and the largest racial justice protests in history to shift public opinion about the true plight of Black people in America. What we got was not justice, it was accountability. Accountability shouldn’t be this hard or this uncertain.

George Floyd’s life mattered. Black lives matter. America has a long, ugly history with racism, and the conviction of Derek Chauvin for the brutal murder of Mr. Floyd is just the first step toward accountability.

Racial discrimination continues to persist and now is not the time to languish. We must roll up our sleeves and continue the work to dismantle a system that is fundamentally racist and unjust. We stand with Black, Indigenous, and people of color in their quest for a better system that would ensure that what happened to Mr. Floyd and countless others never happens again. Because true justice is a society where Black and Brown people can feel safe and have peace of mind simply living their lives. True justice is a practice, a commitment to recognize the humanity that ties us all together.

MNA’s core values are diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. And we remain firmly committed to influencing change, confronting racism, and breaking down barriers for people of color. At MNA, we are committed to examining and reflecting on our own privileges and practices to envision a more just sector. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said in his famous ‘I Have a Dream’ speech, “We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.” And the fight for justice continues.

Standing in solidarity,

Kelley Kuhn, Donna Murray-Brown, Joan Gustafson, Nellie Tsai, Beckie Hawes-Baggett, Tammy Pitts, Mariana Martinez, Ethan Lazrado, Sarah-Grace Battles, Meridith Murley, Jamie Lewis, Kerri Long, Caleigh Noonan, Adam King, Yurii Flit, Wyatt Streeter, Erica SooJin Song, Mara Hazen, Chris Castle, Sarah Pinder, Mark Shaw