



# TRIBAL LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE

*Serving Native Communities Since 1996*

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Tribal Court Clearinghouse ~ [www.tlpi.org](http://www.tlpi.org)

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April 27, 2021

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To our Circle of Supporters,

We the people who are the Tribal Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) write to express our deep care and concern to everyone processing major acts of violence over the past few weeks - the deaths of Ma'Khia Bryant, Daunte Wright, and Adam Toledo, numerous mass shootings, and hate speech and hate crimes committed against Asian American and Pacific Islanders ([AAPI](#)) - especially as the country continues the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

We express our continued support of the Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of a guilty verdict on all charges in the trial of Officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd. Indian Country knows too well the terrible harm that racist and unaccountable police officers can inflict upon peaceful people in our communities. [Study](#) after study confirms that the bias against Black and Native people in the criminal justice system corrupts nearly every encounter. TLPI remains in solidarity with our Black relatives and condemns unlawful and violent actions of law enforcement.

Though we may not be able to say that "justice" was achieved for George Floyd, the guilty verdict is momentous nonetheless. It represents a significant achievement for the movement for Black lives and calls for police accountability. A significant achievement in a historical sea of losses and in a time where the fervor for racial justice is high. For us at TLPI, this verdict reinforces our organizational commitment to the pursuit of a more just world for tribal peoples and all victims of violence.

As a 100% Native American non-profit organized to design and deliver education, research, training, and technical assistance programs, TLPI promotes the enhancement of justice in Indian country and the health, well-being, and culture of Native peoples. TLPI's mission is to strengthen tribal sovereignty and justice while honoring community values, protecting rights, and promoting well-being. Our organizational objectives include helping create and support institutions and systems that work toward improving the welfare of Native communities, including future generations and facilitating the empowerment of all Native individuals and communities that have suffered from abuse or

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abusive historical practices and policies. Some of our organizational [philosophies](#) particularly salient during these times include:

*On victimization*

- We believe that the response to all violence should include adapting culturally respectful solutions that do not compromise the safety of individuals or communities.
- We seek to empower victims of crime rather than pathologize their response to victimization.
- We endorse safety for victims, accountability for offenders, and accountability for governmental entities for prevention of offenses and the rehabilitation of offenders or the segregation of those offenders when that will protect the community.
- We believe that all governments must be accountable for the safety of all of the people in their homelands and in the world.

When you are able, TLPI calls on our Circle of Supporters to take time to process recent traumatic events, engage in healing dialogues, and commit to brainstorming holistic visions of justice for the future. TLPI lifts up the [words](#) of one of our partner organizations, the [National Center for Victims of Crime](#):

“Please, take time. Recognize the enormity of these events and check-in with yourself. Lean on your community and support network. Recognize the inherent humanity and dignity within yourself, within others, and lead with compassion and healing justice to reform the justice system and ensure that those suffering from trauma have access to high-quality and culturally specific support.”

We at TLPI commit to being in collaboration with you as we are on this journey to a more just world. The work continues. In that spirit, we share the following list of resources:

- Black Lives Matter, [BLM Demands](#) and [Healing Action Toolkit](#)
- National Center for Victims of Crime, [Resource List](#)
- Stop AAPI Hate, [Act Now](#)
- [Fatal Encounters Between Native Americans and the Police](#)
- [“Praise”](#) a poem by Angelo Geter

In community,

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