



In the aftermath of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor’s murders by the police, we know now it is not the time to ask for meaningless reforms. If we learned anything from the deaths of Mike Brown, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Tamir Rice, and countless others, it’s that our nation’s racist and predatory policing system simply absorbs reforms and recalibrates to keep producing the same results.

Throughout the United States, communities of color live under the control of an aggressive police state. White communities experience police under a protect-and-serve model, while communities of color live with law and order policing. In many places, communities of color live in daily fear of police and an unforgiving criminal legal system. For Black people, in particular, there is a long history of the police being used to control their lives and as a tool of repression. Black people often live in fear of the police. There is real fear of being brutalized and possibly killed by the police. Every day, Black people across this country have interactions with the police that are dehumanizing, terrifying and may have lasting implications. From being racially profiled and told they “fit the description” to stop and frisk tactics, forced confessions like those faced by five teens in the Central Park jogger case, and police falsifying information and planting evidence, the Black community has suffered at the hands of the police.

Advancement Project National Office is committed to supporting grassroots organizations across the country to build the power that will end this system. Our legal, communications and organizing teams were developed for this moment. Through collective action, we are confident that we can build a new society where communities of color can be free and safe.

As a result, Advancement Project National Office is issuing the following demands:

1. Defund the Police

#DefundPolice is a campaign to divest from policing. The U.S. spends more than \$100 billion per year on policing, while communities suffer. This includes funding from the federal government for hiring officers and purchasing military-style equipment and surveillance technology. We want to invest these substantial resources into the communities most impacted by policing and the criminal legal system. Investments in high-quality education, job training, affordable housing, and free, quality systems of care will ensure that communities thrive and are free and safe. This work is rooted in a larger Divest/Invest strategy articulated in the Movement for Black Lives’ [Vision for Black Lives](#). Call on your local electeds to divest from policing and invest in community now.

2. #PoliceFreeSchools



Safety does not exist when Black and Brown young people are forced to attend school with the same police their communities do not trust on the streets. For many Black and Brown young people, the presence of police in schools disrupts learning environments. Students are not only wrongly arrested in school, they are too often victims of excessive use of force. About 1.6 million students attend schools with police but no counselor; some districts even have their own police departments. School districts should divest from policing and invest in young people by providing restorative justice programs, mental health professionals, counselors, nurses, and high-quality learning environments. See our report: [We Came To Learn](#).

3. End Qualified Immunity

Qualified immunity is a judicial doctrine that protects officers who violate someone's constitutional rights from civil rights lawsuits. This doctrine prevents individuals and their communities from holding police officers accountable for the countless Black people they have murdered. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, qualified immunity "tells officers that they can shoot first and think later, and it tells the public that palpably unreasonable conduct will go unpunished." This doctrine skews our legal system against the members of our society that need it the most and thwarts challenges to the power structures of white supremacy.

4. Elected Officials Must Refuse and Return Police Union Donations

Police unions are among the most powerful forces in the country maintaining the racist and predatory criminal legal system. When a police officer shoots and kills someone on duty, the police union protects them from immediate questioning like any normal citizen. The police union often pays the bond on the rare occasions when officers are arrested for their violence. Perhaps most importantly, police unions fund local mayoral, prosecutorial, and sheriffs' elections, buying the political capital necessary to protect them when their violence becomes public. They also use their donations to influence legislation that perpetuates and further entrenches predatory policing. Candidates and elected officials should refuse and return any such donations if they expect the support of Black and Brown voters who are disproportionately impacted by police violence.

5. End 287(g) Programs

The federal government's 287(g) program allows designated local law enforcement officers to enforce federal civil immigration laws. Sheriffs enter into these agreements with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, arrest people, hold them in their jails, and profit from the jailing. 287(g) programs lead to thousands of deportations every year. Families are separated. Children are left alone. We call for sheriffs not to renew 287(g) contracts, local elected to oppose the contracts, and for local law enforcement to stop cooperation with ICE.

6. Reparations for State Violence Against Communities of Color



Under international law, reparations is an appropriate remedy when a government commits gross or systematic human rights violations. In the U.S., Black descendants of enslaved Africans have demanded reparations for their enslavement, Japanese communities have demanded (and received) reparations for their illegal internment during World War II, and low-income communities of color have demanded reparations for police torture and murders. Organizers in Chicago won the creation of \$5.5 million fund to pay the survivors of notorious Chicago Police Officer Jon Burge's torture regime. Reparations needs to become a central method of redress for the harms caused to communities of color by our nation's various law enforcement agencies. We demand cities with histories of violence against communities of color pass reparations ordinances to pay damages for their acts, apologize for them, and begin the process of repairing these open wounds.