



Southern Christian Leadership Conference

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Chairman of the Board

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Statement – Charles Steele, Jr. (President and CEO, SCLC)

As President and CEO of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), I am saddened by the EPIDEMIC that we see taking over this country. We are in a new age civil rights fight for our rights. Instead of hanging our black men from trees they are being killed by police in the name of self-defense.

I am proud of the diverse outcry in New York City that showed the frustration of all ethnicity of people. Dr. King would've been proud of the thousands that are non-violently protesting across the country.

Because of our history, people of color have a distrust of law enforcement. Maybe one day we can get to the point where we can respect cops first and fear them last. Until we get to that point, SCLC will continue to teach non-violent strategies of the Kingian theory, which teaches people how to conduct non-violent direct action campaigns. We must demand federal and state laws that monitor practices of the local, state and federal municipalities and ensure that the laws protect the rights of the disenfranchised. We must hold our elected officials accountable. The only way we can hold our elected officials accountable is to promote citizenship education that includes a surge on the need to exercise our right to vote. We must also have creative methods of providing affordable educational opportunities. Knowledge equips our society to fight against the injustices of our nation and the world.

Almost 400 years have passed since the first slaves arrived in America, but even though the cast has changed the script remains the same. Wakeup America, the voice of America is the people and the people are speaking loudly.

“The pursuit of justice is an ongoing movement.”