



June 5, 2020

A Statement from the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation

The outrage of America and the world at the brazen killing of George Floyd, a Black American, is a righteous response to the continuing plague of racism in the United States. To remain silent in the face of this obvious injustice would be to assent to the deep harms of outright and implicit racism. Racism has been historically, and continues to be, an insidious driving factor in almost every aspect of American culture that has stolen rightful opportunities for human fulfillment for generations of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. The time to end this scourge is now.

Outrage and protest are a necessary, but not a sufficient response, to achieve enduring fundamental changes in social behaviors, cultural expectations, and laws necessary to finally end this endemic bias. It is time to voice our values and to act on those values in our personal and professional lives. The responsibility is shared by all, and thus must be fully embraced by everyone.

Our mission demands this of us. The mission of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) is to promote, undertake, and evaluate activities, studies, and programs that improve individual and public health, welfare, and safety. We acknowledge the devastating impacts that racism has had and continues to have on the health and well-being of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color, which may include PIRE staff, colleagues, and communities with whom we work in partnership.

To respond effectively, we must further recognize it is more than individual racism, but bias within and across key systems of policing, criminal justice, education, employment, and finance that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. PIRE continues to strive to provide a safe and equitable workplace, working towards social justice and health equity.

Everyone at PIRE is uniquely positioned professionally with the responsibility to identify and support efforts to improve the physical health, mental health, social health and economic well-being of those who have suffered the most from unjust prejudices. Because we know that social inequalities driven by racism and other biases are the primary drivers of health disparities, our work is needed now more than ever. This is the time to redouble our efforts through inclusive partnerships with organizations and all communities to identify, ameliorate, and end the scourge of racial biases.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. F. Wiecek", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular box.

William F. Wiecek, Ph.D.
CEO and President