

In Support of Justice and Solidarity

The recent tragedies of the murder of unarmed African Americans by white police officers (George Floyd in Minneapolis and Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Ky.) and white vigilantes (Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Ga.) are only the most recent examples of an ongoing crisis in American society. As a country, we still have not resolved the problem of racial oppression and violence, a legacy of a long history of racism and slavery.

The Southeastern Library Association stands in support of those peacefully protesting these grave injustices. As a professional organization, SELA stands in support of all library employees, all library patrons, and all members of our communities as we attempt to honestly and constructively face down the forces of racism and bigotry. There is a lot of work to do. Libraries can serve as a resource providing information in a safe and neutral place, whether physically or online, for people to find out what these recent tragedies mean and how they are simply the most recent manifestations of an old problem. As librarians, library administrators, and library employees in general we can support our African American and other colleagues and co-workers and let them know that they are all valued and included.