

jus·tice

/'jʌstəs/

the quality of being just; righteousness, equitableness, or moral rightness: to uphold the **justice** of a cause. rightfulness or lawfulness, as of a claim or title; justness of ground or reason: to complain with **justice**. the moral principle determining just conduct.

Yesterday's decision by the Kentucky grand jury is another injustice in a long litany of injustices leveled against Black Americans, further exposing the stained moral fiber of our nation. We agree with our sisters at YWCA USA that, "the charges against former officer Brett Hankinson do not meet the gravity of the crime committed. The decision to indict him only for reckless behavior, and the failure to indict any officers for their role in Breonna Taylor's death, points to flaws in our system that must be addressed."

We at YWCA Metropolitan Chicago are heartbroken by the series of tragic events that have become commonplace, and are even more outraged at the callousness that some in this country show to their fellow Americans. The pain in our communities is as much righteous anger as it is a plea to the moral compass of this country. How are Black Americans to interpret their place in this country that espouses "all men are created equal" while they grapple with blatant examples every day of the devaluation of their lives and live in constant fear for the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones? While any Black Americans live with this reality, how can we say that, as a country, we are living up to the values and virtues we espouse and export to the rest of the world?

We are in a fight for the soul of this nation. Now is the time for us to commit fervently to the truth that we cannot realize our full potential **until the land of the free is free of racism**. We will not be effective in eliminating systemic racism **until the land of the brave is brave enough to change**. We need to make our voices heard in protest, through demonstration and through our votes, **until "by the people" and "for the people" means doing right by all the people**.

The YWCA remains a leader in this long and bitter battle for justice. Our mission remains critical and is as urgent as ever before. Eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all remains our battle cry. We are pursuing basic human rights for all, and we do so **Until Justice Just Is**.