



Dear MN SOPHE Community,

We continue to grieve the unjust killing of George Floyd while in Minneapolis police custody on Monday, May 25th. While Mr. Floyd's death is at the forefront of our minds, he is far from the first: "[Since Jan. 1, 2015, 1,252 black people have been shot and killed by police](#)" in our country. The systemic racism that led to the death of George Floyd is not an easy thing to solve and dismantling this system of oppression requires the collective efforts of everyone in our society.

We as public health educators are trained to tackle complex problems. Across the many fields that we represent we can address the health disparities disproportionately affecting our community members who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color. From [food security](#), to [opioid addiction recovery](#), to [mental health](#), to [health care](#), to [housing](#), and [the environment](#), we have a responsibility to equitably advocate, educate and promote health.

Systemic racism is not a new public health crisis and public health educators have been working for decades to address its root causes and symptoms, but still it persists. Now more than ever we as public health educators need to take action to create a more just and equitable society for our current and future generations.

Sincerely,  
MN SOPHE Board of Directors