As-Salamu Alaikum,

At Masjid al-Rabia and within our community, we are deeply saddened and angered by recent events, including the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, senseless aggression and violence by law enforcement, and the mass incarceration of protesters by an increasingly militarized police force. It is particularly important that we help to address the anti-black racism and violent white supremacy in the United States which is undoubtedly ingrained in the systems we interact with every day. This reality has resulted in centuries of mass incarceration, police surveillance and brutality targeting Black communities, and state-sanctioned murder of Black people across the nation.

We honor the lives of those who were murdered by law enforcement just in the last few weeks. We say their names and send love to their families—George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, and the countless nameless victims from centuries of white supremacist terror and injustice.

At Masjid al-Rabia, we assert that Black Lives Matter. To be committed to anything less would undermine our faith and values as a community. There can be no talk of justice—in this life or the next—without each of us confronting the injustices Black people face every day. We know that it is not enough only to speak out. We are called upon as Muslims to be an enemy to the oppressor and a helper to the oppressed.

As an organization, we are first and foremost taking the lead set by our Black community members to decide how to embody racial justice at Masjid al-Rabia. We stand in solidarity with Black community leadership to call an end to police brutality and pledge to continue our commitment in the following ways:

1. **We will participate in the Day of Outrage this Friday, June 5th, 2020, to speak out against anti-blackness and police brutality.**
   - We will have a special khutbah about anti-blackness led by a local Black Muslim community leader, Masjid al-Rabia’s Director of Spiritual Education, Zaynab Shahar.
   - This Friday evening’s LGBTQ Muslim Digital Mixer will be a healing & community space led by and for Black LGBTQ+ Muslims to use as a space of healing, connecting, and organizing.

2. **We will uplift information, resources, and calls to action** by those on the front lines confronting anti-Blackness in our Muslim communities, Disabled spaces, and Queer & Trans community-building through our weekly programming and concurrent Prison Ministry work.
Throughout the year, we will consciously raise programming that addresses anti-blackness in Muslim communities and host spaces in solidarity for Muslims to connect, share resources, and strategize across issues that intersect with the demand to protect Black people.

- Our Inclusive Qur’an Study sessions from now on will be led by Zaynab Shahar to actively incorporate Black perspectives into inclusive Islamic thought.
- Our Prison Outreach programming will also serve as a resource on how to help our community members who have been massively incarcerated as a result of protesting police brutality.

3. **We pledge to actively build upon our community center’s organizational development through an anti-racism lens.**
   - We will continue to use an intersectional lens in all our work with an emphasis on Racial Justice, Disability Justice, Queer Liberation, and Gender Liberation.
   - We are renewing commitments with our extended team of community leaders, staff, interns, and volunteers by asking them to sign on to our statement of solidarity.
   - We commit to only work with individuals and organizations that demonstrate the same commitment to racial justice.

4. **We will double down on our commitment to invest in Black Muslim community leaders** by developing new avenues of leadership development and committing to hire more Black artists, educators, and accessibility contractors in 2020 and beyond.

In these items and in our personal lives we commit to act—we call on you do the same. Protect one another. Defund police and invest in community care. Demand that law enforcement and the national guard stand down against protesters. End cash bail. Abolish all prisons, jails, and detention centers. Support Black-led organizations with your money, your time, and your talent. Examine your implicit biases and be in the active practice of disrupting them. Hire Black-led organizations to train you, your staff, and leadership. Revisit your hiring policies and organizational culture. Challenge yourself to think about the difference between tokenism and authentic inclusion. Have difficult conversations with your families. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable. Hold space for those who need to heal.

As an organization driven by faith, we are committed to standing firm against injustice, reflecting the word of the Qur’an and the precedent set by our Prophets, Imams, and historical icons. Make duaa for our communities to do better. Make duaa to stay safe and live to see the day where we all can breathe. Make duaa for Black lives to matter now and always. Most importantly, follow through with concrete action.

In solidarity from our heart to yours,

Masjid al-Rabia, Board of Directors and Community Leadership

This statement is modeled after Black Muslim leaders in California who have made clear asks of their non-Black colleagues in the movement.