Leadership Now’s Statement

America’s founding principles of liberty and justice for all have always been compromised by the painful reality that black Americans were enslaved when those words were written. **Our democracy will never be resilient or representative until we fully acknowledge and address that history.**

Racism shows up in many of the challenges Leadership Now seeks to address: voter turnout is reduced due to efforts to disenfranchise black voters, and gerrymandering is used to explicitly dilute the influence of minority communities.

Every one of us must actively address racial injustice in all of its forms. In pursuit of that goal, **Leadership Now commits to four things:**

1) Deepening our members’ understanding of the inter-relationship of racism, democracy access, and economic inequality
2) Investing even further in our work to support voter access and turnout for communities of color
3) Joining in common cause with black business leader groups to advance common goals
4) Mobilizing efforts in our members’ individual companies towards policies & actions addressing systemic racism

Although it will take sustained collective action to correct deeply rooted injustices, we can start by recognizing that each of us has a role to play - as individuals and as business leaders. It is imperative now more than ever that we make sure that the voice of black Americans is heard, both at the ballot box and in our communities.

Leadership Now stands behind the protestors exercising their right to demonstrate, and we commit to ensuring Americans can exercise their fundamental right to vote in November. Black lives - and votes - do matter.