



VOICES FOR JUSTICE

in the Movement to End Homelessness

As part of our [Commitment to Racial Equity](#) and in light of the racial justice awakening in this country, Funders Together is sharing statements, articles, and other resources that highlight the voices of Black leaders in the fields of philanthropy, homelessness, and intersecting systems. While it's important for white leaders to speak up, we can further our commitments to racial equity by listening to, learning from, and incorporating the recommendations of Black leadership into not only our grantmaking but also into the structures of our organizations.



Tying together his emotions that stemmed from the verdict of the Derek Chauvin trial to the larger social injustices that deepen those feelings, [Bobby Watts](#), CEO of National Health Care for the Homeless Council, clarifies the need for a true reckoning with race in the U.S. in his recent statement, [Tears, Relief, Anger](#).

One Verdict is Not Enough

This single verdict does not undo or end the white supremacy and racism that our country was founded on. While the verdict brought some relief, Bobby shares that:

I became angry as I heard commentators refer to The Verdict as 'a new beginning' or 'an inflection point.' My thought is that, by itself, The Verdict changes almost nothing. At most, by itself, it has set a new floor of what we can reasonably expect: IF there's overwhelming video evidence and eyewitnesses that includes a fire department EMT, and IF the chief of police testifies against the officer's actions, now it's not unreasonable for us to hope for a just verdict.

A Possibility for True Reckoning

In his reflection, Bobby shares that the recent protests and the verdict in this trial are not yet a reckoning with race. In order to reach a reckoning, our elected officials must face the impacts of racist policy on the citizens of this country. The glimmer of light is that there is a possibility for that reckoning to happen through the [H.R 40](#) bill, which establishes a commission to study and develop a proposal for reparations for descendants of Black people who were enslaved. The House and the Senate now have the opportunity to pass the bill and set into motion a commission to look at reparations - a step on the pathway to justice and liberation.

[Read the full statement.](#)

Funders Together to End Homelessness

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