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Last week, the world again watched in horror as another unarmed Black man, George Floyd, was murdered on a Minneapolis street by the police. Sadly, this has become an all too familiar occurrence as George Floyd joins the long list of other Black Americans who have been killed due to systemic racism in this country. This must end, and it is time to make it clear, in no uncertain terms, that Black Lives Matter.

As an organization, Susan G. Komen Oregon & SW Washington is committed to racial equity, and our commitment starts from within. While we are a small staff, we are diverse and value the voices and experiences of our employees because their unique lived experiences matter. We want you to know that Komen Oregon & SW Washington stands with our community, particularly the Black community, during this time of heartache and always. We are committed to doing better and being better as individuals, an organization, and as your community partner, and will do everything in our power to address and eliminate the systemic racism that has plagued us as a nation and has led to health care disparities that continue to affect communities of color to this day. One of the ways we have sought to bring about change is through our work on our newly established [African American Initiative](#), which focuses on addressing the breast cancer disparities Black women face by connecting with and listening to the needs of the Black community and working with our local health systems to implement the changes that are needed to ensure health equity across the board. However, we know that is not enough because we understand that we cannot achieve health equity until we achieve racial equity.

As we continue to look for ways to achieve health and racial equity, we are leaning on our four pillars of care, community, action, and research:

- **Care** – [Our programs](#) will continue to support every member of our community. We are here for you, regardless of your race or ethnicity.
- **Community** – We will continue to focus on addressing the disparities that affect the Black community and will work with our local health systems to meet the needs of the Black community and achieve health equity.
- **Action** – Through our [African American Initiative](#), we will take action to effect change in our community, and we encourage you to do the same. Please consider joining with Black-led organizations such as the [National Urban League](#) for specific guidance on how to support the movement and with people of color-led organizations like [Oregon Health Equity Alliance](#) that focus on health equity and social determinants of health as it pertains to health disparities .
- **Research** – Susan G. Komen is working to promote diversity in the population that participates in clinical trials.

At this time of despair, it is important that we do not lose hope, even though things may seem hopeless. Even though it seems impossible, if we come together, we can and will win this fight. As Nelson Mandela said, “It always seems impossible until it’s done.”

*This statement was written by one of our valued staff members, African American Initiative Manager , Tai Harden-Moore, JD, MBA. Tai recently shared her thoughts on the attack on Black lives in America. We encourage you to read and reflect on her words in [We Protest, We Rage, We Hashtag and We Still Go Unheard in America](#).