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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge  
ESTABLISHED 1895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: June 9, 2020**

**CONTACT: [info@cacanational.org](mailto:info@cacanational.org)**

## **Statement: Understanding Why “All Lives Matter” Is the Wrong Response to “Black Lives Matter”**

San Francisco, June 9, 2020 — The Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement saw its birth in February of 2012 following the shooting death of 17-year-old African-American teenager Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman in Florida and the subsequent acquittal of Mr. Zimmerman who had claimed self-defense. Black Lives Matter grew quickly from public protests and on social media campaigns, confronting the brutal treatment and profiling of black people by law enforcement. It gained national legitimization with mass demonstrations following deaths of three African Americans in 2014: Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, Eric Garner in New York and Akai Gurley in Brooklyn, New York.

BLM’s response to the May 25 death of George Floyd in the custody of Minneapolis police confirmed its status as an international human rights movement. Protests transcended national borders as societies worldwide declared racism against of blacks as a global pandemic. “Black Lives Matter!” echoed at the demonstrations for George Floyd as a clarion call for reform and justice.

Meanwhile so, too, is heard “All Lives Matter” but it is not seen as a unifying response but as a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of BLM and the purpose that drives that movement.

While there is no disagreement over “all lives *should* matter,” to use the statement as a retort to “Black Lives Matter” completely misses the point. “We do believe that all lives matter, but we don’t live in a world where all lives matter,” stated Alicia Garza, a human rights activist and one of the cofounders of the BLM movement, in a 2016 television interview. When critics answer “Black Lives Matter” with “All Lives Matters” it is not received as a show of support. Rather, it displays insensitivity to legitimate grievances. It trivializes the reality of how institutionalized racial discrimination, oppression and violence have reduced Blacks to under-valued second-class citizens.

Chinese Americans should embrace Black Americans’ call for justice as we can identify with the legacy of hostile rejection, the denial of fundamental rights and freedoms, and suffering from injustice. Removed from the din of strained exchange, the following analog quietly but powerfully illustrates the pain of words that is circulating in social media:



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*Imagine your child dying and you are  
giving a eulogy explaining what your  
own child meant to you and how  
special your child was, and then  
someone grabs the mic and says  
“actually all children are special...”  
That’s what “all lives matter” sounds like.*

C.A.C.A. National Lodge publicly supports the aims of the Black Lives Matter Movement in promoting diversity, restorative justice, intergenerationality, engagement and empathy.

# # #

1044 Stockton St.  
San Francisco, CA.

Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Orange County (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.