



# La Voz de Esperanza

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**Editor:** Gloria A. Ramirez

**Design:** Elizandro Carrington

**Cover Photos:** San Antonio protests on May 30, 2020 by Gloria A. Ramirez

**Cover Art:** Mural painted by Xena Goldman, Greta McLain & Cadex Herrera at Cup Foods, site of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis, MN.

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## La Voz Mail Collective

The Collective is sheltering at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will be returning when their health and safety can be assured. Extra funds are being raised to pay for folding La Voz each month during this time.

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- We advocate for a wide variety of social, economic & environmental justice issues.
- Opinions expressed in La Voz are not necessarily those of the Esperanza Center.

## La Voz de Esperanza is a publication of

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Articles due by the 8th of each month

## Policy Statements

\* We ask that articles be visionary, progressive, instructive & thoughtful. Submissions must be literate & critical; not sexist, racist, homophobic, violent, or oppressive & may be edited for length.

\* All letters in response to Esperanza activities or articles in La Voz will be considered for publication. Letters with intent to slander individuals or groups will not be published.

As I write this editorial on June 17, 2020 there are so many things happening at once: Let's begin with George Floyd's horrific murder by police 3 weeks ago. It ignited a worldwide response supporting the Black Lives Movement. Protests, marches, and actions continue to impact cities and states locally in the U.S. and globally. I was particularly delighted to see that British protestors took it upon themselves to dump a slave trader's statue into the harbor in Bristol, England. The 18-foot-tall statue was of 17th-century slave trader, Edward Colston—revered for his wealth made in the slave trade. Yet, still in the U.S., there are people protesting the removal of Confederate statues and the renaming of some military bases.

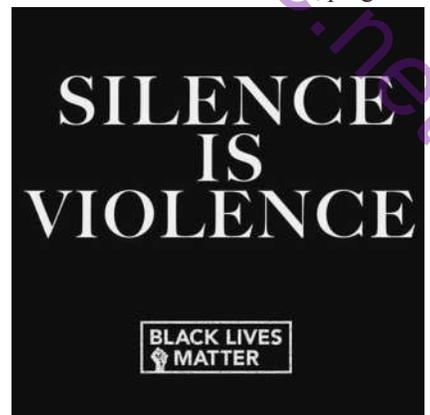
Since George Floyd's killing other actions are taking place challenging institutional racism especially in police units throughout the U.S. Huge and constant protests have led to the review of traditional roles and tactics police continue to practice that are simply racist. Today George Floyd's brother, Philonise went before the United Nations to ask that the The UN Human Rights Council in Geneva set up an international probe to investigate killings of Black people in America, and violence against demonstrators. Imagine that!

This week also marked 5 years since a white supremacist, Dylan Roof, opened fire on churchgoers at the Mother Emanuel AME Church in downtown Charleston. One would have thought that the massacre of 9 African Americans in worship would have been enough to cause a rebellion against the white power structure but not so. Many have pointed out that the shooter, arrested a day later by police, was taken to Burger King for a meal because he was hungry. Compare that to Rayshard Brooks' recent killing—when police responded to a call that a man was asleep in his car at a Wendy's drive-thru in Atlanta, Georgia. After cordially talking for some time and Mr. Brooks moving his car to a parking spot, police officers chose to escalate matters such that Mr. Brooks wound up being shot in the back, twice. However, because of the recent Floyd protests, those police officers were arrested the next day and the police chief resigned. It was revealed recently that after the shooting, one of the policemen kicked Brooks, while the other chose to stand on his shoulders. We can be heartened that the officers involved were quickly arrested or we can continue to be wary aware that Atlanta police called in sick en masse to support the accused killers. We cannot let up, we must continue to protest, march and write. Silence equals violence.

There is some hopeful news that intersects with the Black Lives Movement and the George Floyd murder this week, though. The Supreme Court came forth with two promising decisions: On June 15, the Supremes ruled that the language of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sex discrimination, applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, as well; and on June 16, as I finish this editorial, the justices ruled that the Trump administration cannot carry out its plan to shut down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). This allows Dreamers (800,00) to continue to stay in the U.S. for the time being avoiding deportation as long as they continue to register their status.

Each community impacted by these decisions needs to step forward and continue to protest on their own behalf and for the Black Lives Matter movement. Each victory is a victory for all. We must stand together with one voice a voice for change that will impact all communities that have faced injustice in this country. Continue to voice your thoughts. No justice, no peace! Send your articles to: [lavoz@esperanzacenter.org](mailto:lavoz@esperanzacenter.org)

—Stay safe, wear your masks! Gloria A. Ramirez



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**VOZ VISION STATEMENT:** La Voz de Esperanza speaks for many individual, progressive voices who are gente-based, multi-visioned and milagro-bound. We are diverse survivors of materialism, racism, misogyny, homophobia, classism, violence, earth-damage, speciesism and cultural and political oppression. We are recapturing the powers of alliance, activism and healthy conflict in order to achieve interdependent economic/spiritual healing and fuerza. La Voz is a resource for peace, justice, and human rights, providing a forum for criticism, information, education, humor and other creative works. La Voz provokes bold actions in response to local and global problems, with the knowledge that the many risks we take for the earth, our body, and the dignity of all people will result in profound change for the seven generations to come.