

We stand in solidarity with our community here in Canada and around the world “Because all Black People’s Lives are Important”.

For the past 30 years, The Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black CAP) has worked to ensure the dignity and well-being of Toronto’s African, Caribbean and Black communities by responding to the threat of HIV and AIDS. Our motto, ‘Because All Black People’s Lives Are Important’, has been and continues to be our guiding light.

As we watch the current events unfolding on the streets and in the hearts of North America, we are both dismayed and heartened. Dismayed because Black lives continue to be treated as less valuable. But heartened because the chorus of voices pushing back is growing. Now is the time for greater political and ideological intervention. This is not just about police violence, as the Black Lives Matter movement has pointed out, there are a myriad of deep imbalances Black people face daily. When we are able to end the hyper-criminalisation and sexualization of Black people, when we can end the surveillance of Black people, when we can end the disproportionate poverty and marginalization Black lives are forced into, when we can recognize that all black lives matter includes all aspects of black life inclusive of all sexual orientation and gender identities, when Black people are truly free, then and only then will all of society be truly free. An injury to one is an injury to all!

We will never stand by, we will never be silent, because all Black lives matter.

We urge everyone to take care of themselves as we mourn our brothers and sisters whose lives have been lost to police brutality and we stand alongside those who have in one way or the other been hurt due to the colour of their skin. The price for our freedom has been high, it is past time to reclaim our humanity and dignity. Together we will get through this, the time is now and change is coming.

