

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington acknowledges and abhors the inhumane treatment of Black Americans and the history of systemic racism throughout the United States and in Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, the hashtag BlackLivesMatter was used for the first time on July 13, 2013, which was founded by Patrisse Khan-Cullors, Opal Tometi, and Alicia Garza in response to police violence and lack of accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State strongly condemns all racist acts of police violence and extends our deepest condolences to the families and friends of Manuel Ellis, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the other victims of racially-biased police violence throughout our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State strongly condemns racist acts of oppression in all forms, including institutionalized racism, which has attempted to suppress Black Americans for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State recognizes the importance of Juneteenth, June 19, dating back to 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free, two-and-a-half years after the Emancipation Proclamation became official; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State has initiated and undertaken training programs aimed at strengthening cultural competency and reducing racism, sexism, and other biases within our state government and has provided the State Patrol with de-escalation training to minimize the risk of lethal encounters between law enforcement officers and civilians; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State respects the knowledge, experience, and traditions of all who live, work, study, or worship in our state and must actively listen to the voices of our Black residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State supports the work of our State Patrol and state government to make it more diverse, equitable, and inclusive and commits to seeking further policy and administrative measures in support of this goal; and


**WHEREAS**, we must all commit to human rights advocacy and to fighting racism and standing against injustice because Black lives matter today and every day;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim July 13, 2020, as

### ***Black Lives Matter Day***

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020

  
Governor Jay Inslee

