



## Statement of Solidarity with Baltimore 4/28/15

Over the last months, weeks and days, we – as an organization and from an organizational standpoint – have wrestled with where and how to stand in solidarity with the voices, movements, communities and organizations on the front lines of combatting police brutality and organizing for racial justice.

The death of Freddie Gray while in police custody, and the swell of uprisings and calls to action from the Baltimore community, require community organizations to join in solidarity because it is well past time for change and justice.

**We believe that it is impossible to achieve our mission to cultivate a healthy community through comprehensive sexual health care and education without addressing broader and systemic injustice, structural racism, and societal factors that deeply impact people's health.** People must have the right to health, education and a secure future.

When people of color and LGBTQ people experience daily violence and oppression – particularly at the hands of police – it is clear that the systems in place are not working. We all deserve the right to have children, not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments. This is reproductive justice. And this is something Family Tree believes in.

Yet, we don't believe we are leaders in organizing against police brutality, or organizing for racial justice, there are organizations and people far more equipped to be leading that. However, we believe we can stand in solidarity, to strive to be allies, and to use our platform as a community inspired, grassroots leader in sexual health care and education to amplify these issues and draw connections as they directly impact our clients and our staff.

They are not separable from the health disparities we are working to eliminate.

#BlackLivesMatter #TransLivesMatter