



**Family Tree  
Clinic**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 24, 2015

**STATEMENT:  
Family Tree Clinic Response to Justice4Jamar**

Family Tree stands in solidarity with our communities mourning the shooting death of Jamar Clark by a Minneapolis police officer and grieving over the subsequent violence enacted upon peaceful protesters at the 4<sup>th</sup> precinct in North Minneapolis.

We stand in solidarity with our shared communities in our outrage at the violence enacted by white supremacists last night upon the peaceful protesters – shooting five unarmed individuals advocating for justice for Jamar Clark. We are so thankful that all five who were shot are not in life-threatening condition.

Our staff, board and the people we serve are deeply impacted by the events unfolding in North Minneapolis -- folks who move through life with the lived experiences of oppression, racism, police injustice, transphobia and harassment. There are people who seek out Family Tree for medical services who fear for their safety and their families' safety on a daily basis.

We believe that it is impossible to achieve our mission to cultivate a healthy community through comprehensive sexual health care and education without addressing specific and systemic injustice, structural racism, and societal factors that deeply impact people's health.

Each of us must have the right to health, education and a secure future.

When people of color and LGBTQ people experience daily violence and oppression, fear for their safety and their children's safety, it is past time for change and justice.

We all deserve the right to have children, not have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments without the fear of police violence. This is reproductive justice. And this is something Family Tree believes in and fights for.

We recognize that our community's response to the shooting of Jamar Clark represents a pivotal moment for Minnesota and creates an opportunity to address the complexities of inequity and violence endemic in society, deepen our conversations and frameworks, and work together towards a more just world.

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

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