



**Family Tree
Clinic**

STATEMENTS: ON THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD

**From our Associate Executive Director, Nathalie Crowley,
and our Indigenous and People of Color caucus
& from our Executive Director, Alissa Light and our white Folks caucus**

SAINT PAUL, MN, JUNE 2, 2020 –

In front of our neighborhood corner store, George Floyd was murdered. He was murdered by the Minneapolis police department, by our government, and by our society.

As you read this I want you to think on that quietly for a few moments. Take the time to close your eyes, as you are able, and hold space for the memory of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Jamar Clark, Philando Castile, and all of the other loved ones killed by police forces in our communities.

Family Tree Clinic is outraged along with communities here in Minneapolis and St. Paul and with people around the world and is mourning the loss of another Black life at the hands of the Minneapolis police department. We send love, light, and power to George's family and friends.

This past Thursday, Family Tree Clinic's staff of color met to share space and connect with each other. This was a healing time for us. I, along with the other staff of color, were stunned by what had happened in our community. We were sad, angry, and also hopeful. Many of us grew up in South Minneapolis along Lake Street and have deep connections to the community and have experienced racism and injustices first hand. And we are not alone. While the world may be now just seeing the racism and white supremacy that has plagued the land we live on here in Minnesota, we have seen that trauma every day in the bodies of our patients, in the eyes of our students in detention centers and schools, and in the lives of our colleagues living and working in our community. Our hope is that this will mark the beginning of real healing and change in the cities we call home.

Family Tree Clinic has been on a continuous path of learning, healing, and striving to be a better organization for our patients, our employees, and our community for almost 50 years. Over the last several years, the white folks who work and lead Family Tree Clinic have begun to work on dismantling white supremacy and systemic racism in the clinic and their own lives. Part of this has been convening white folks and IPOC caucuses to provide intentional space for white staff to work on strategies for ending white



Family Tree Clinic

supremacy and for IPOC to have a healing space and to organize as needed as we did this last Thursday.

As we have said before, the right to parent our children in safe and healthy environments is a reproductive justice issue. Family Tree Clinic cannot achieve its mission and vision of cultivating a healthy community and eliminating health disparities without confronting the deadly systems of oppression used against Black communities, Indigenous communities, and other communities of color.

This is hard work and it is going to be harder than the work we are doing now, showing up at protests, sweeping streets, and dropping off groceries. While these are needed and necessary actions we know that all of the hard work is in front of us. At Family Tree Clinic we have had to invest significant resources, time, and emotional labor in addressing systemic racism and white supremacy in our organization and we know that we will need to commit even more in the future. To move forward we must make larger sacrifices and tend to the wounds in our communities of color that we did not know existed or that we have tried to ignore. We have to live in vulnerability and welcome discomfort as we listen to the voices of Black folks and work with our Black communities, Indigenous communities, and other communities of color to create a new Minneapolis and a new Minnesota where all families can raise their children in a safe and healthy environment.

With Light, Love, and Power,

-Nathalie Crowley, Associate Executive Director and
Family Tree's Indigenous and People of Color Caucus

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT FROM WHITE FOLKS CAUCUS

As Family Tree's white folks caucus we are grieving the death of George Floyd, murdered in our city by police. We acknowledge that this comes at the same time as the devastating impacts of COVID-19, and the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. We have made space for sharing our feelings in our caucus, so that we can acknowledge that we have a reaction and are hurt and angry, and support each other to honor our feelings.

We are also re-centering BIPOC leadership and experience, and doing our work to dismantle white supremacy in our own bodies, in our organization and in our city. We are engaging in learning the history of racist policing, as well as the history of racism in health care and sexual health care specifically, and the generations of structural and



Family Tree Clinic

individual racism and oppression in our country with a foundation of slavery and colonialism.

White folks caucus is making donations to **Black Visions Collective** as a group, we are committing to participate in advancing reparations, we are committing and recommitting to calling each other on our own racist reactions and actions with love and accountability. Succession Planning is on our minds. We are committed to being accomplices. Our caucus work has been active for almost two years and we are in a moment of reckoning with our complacency and complicity as well.

We stand in loving solidarity with our BIPOC colleagues. We demand systems change. We demand justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and countless others killed by police violence and racism.

-Alisa Light, Executive Director and White Folks Caucus

###