Friends and Colleagues—

Like many of you, I have sat with news coming from Minnesota and George Floyd’s death for several days and while these situations are all too familiar, I struggle as if it is the first time we’ve seen it.

As we watch our brothers and sisters murdered, the only thing I can respond with is enough.

Enough killing. Enough violence. Enough racism and xenophobia, police brutality and enough with the school to prison pipeline. Enough with the thoughts and prayers. Enough with the advocacy that ends with a Facebook post or tweet. But also, are we doing enough? Are you?

Social workers are a profession called to action, it is rooted in our education, our Code of Ethics and ingrained in who we are. We are called to fight for social justice, and we do so, daily. You are on the front lines of these battles and know the reality that George Floyd’s family isn’t the last to lose a loved one, that Minnesota isn’t the last state to have civil disobedience, and that more children will lose mothers/fathers, parents will lose children.

It is not enough to be “not racist.” We must be, and call others to be, anti-racist. We must do more to be aggressively against it, challenge others to rise to this standard and root out racial inequities in every community, every agency, every hiring practice, and system we encounter. We must say enough to the passive advocacy, and put our effort, our energy and our dollars toward organizations that are in the fight with us.

As a chapter, we are committed to doing more as well. We are working on new programs and opportunities to dialogue about these issues in constructive ways. We are developing spaces where we can learn, grow together, and challenge one another in a healthy way. We are working with our committees to develop more advocacy work and resources. We are seeking partnerships with liked-minded organizations who we can stand with. Please stay connected with us to learn more as we launch these initiatives.

I know that our community is just as enraged as I am. I know that many of you share the same fears, worries and sadness that I do. Many of you worry for your own safety, those of your family, spouses, and children. Please know you are not alone---and that as your association, we will only know we have done enough when these issues are eradicated.

In solidarity,

Jennifer Thompson, MSW
Executive Director