

I CAN'T BREATHE

– A Statement from the Rap of Ages Crew –

We at Rap of Ages Podcast are outraged by the continuing racial injustice in this country. The time to act is long overdue. We are outraged by the unconscionable murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Oscar Grant, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Emmitt Till, Martin Luther King Jr, and too many other Black Americans whose names we may never know.

As we talk about a musical genre created by and primarily composed of African American artists, we recognize the privilege we have as listeners, critics, and fans. Hip hop is an art form about expression and freedom that gives a voice to the voiceless. We, as a society, have gained so much from our diversity. We cannot take it for granted. Even though our voice may be small, it is vital that we take a stand for freedom, justice, and equality.

It is essential that we all speak out and speak up. Being silent is being complicit and supporting the status quo of the continued murdering of black men, women and children. Not being racist is not enough. We need to be antiracist and to reflect on our day-to-day decisions, interactions, and the larger systems we live inside of. We must listen with an open heart, an open mind, and without judgement. There is real fear in our communities; there are real issues entrenched in many of our institutions. We need to be proactive in recognizing and rooting out racism.

You can be a part of the solution.

Raise your voice.

- Protesting is an important and vital action. If you can do it, wear a mask and protect yourself and your family.

Money talks. This is America.

- Give to a cause that supports ending police brutality and racial injustice like <http://joincampaignzero.org/>.
- Support local Black-Owned businesses near you. Check out <http://officialblackwallstreet.com/>.

Participate in Civil Society.

- Vote. Write your representatives and tell them to support laws that impact your communities.
- Support HR 40 to study the effects of slavery and discrimination, and HR 7085 Ending the Qualified Immunity Act to curb police brutality. You can find resources at <http://joincampaignzero.org/>.

Our country can do better. It must. Until we are all free, none of us truly are.

*We raise a fist with all who protest
We raise a fist for all those who suffer
We raise a fist with all those who are angry and fed up*

Black Lives Matter