



## **MLK Lebanon Official Statement regarding the Chauvin Guilty Verdict**

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Coalition of Lebanon, Ohio believes that today's verdict is a long overdue step toward justice and liberty for all. MLK Lebanon is calling for action to help ensure that future generations of people of color can live without fear and can enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

1. **Register to Vote** (<https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>)
2. **STOP HB-22 - Expansion to Obstruction of Justice**  
<https://youtu.be/h4OgUFznHRs>  
Sign the petition at <https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/call-to-action-stop-the-passage-of-hb-22-expanded-obstruction-of-justice-bill-1>
3. **George Floyd Justice in Policing Act** (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7120>). Call 202-499-6085 to demand that this act pass.

MLK Lebanon understands that individual racism emerges from policies designed to elevate one racial group over another in a hierarchy designed to advantage White people over people of color. Individual racism builds barriers that prevent connection and community. Individual racism is seen and heard in the form of many harsh and unfair words and deeds enacted with great frequency against other people. Individual racism persists when we do not stand up to others who look like us, or who are in our social groups when they use language, tell jokes, or perpetuate stereotypes based on color, ethnicity, and culture.

MLK Lebanon also believes institutional racism is the term given to patterns of social and racial privilege that occur because the laws and policies of our government and institutions are designed to create and maintain unequal opportunities across all sectors of community life. The consequences of these inequities are directly experienced by people of color (and other social groups) that do not hold majority influence in politics, education, and community leadership. Institutional racism contributes to violence and brutality against black and brown people in many ways, including but not limited to, the belief by violent racists, based on a history of killing black people without consequence, that they can use lethal force against people of color with impunity.

We all must continue to work together...to stand up to hate with LOVE.

### **MLK Community Coalition of Lebanon**

Fred Cook, Board Member

Renee Forrester, Board Member

MaryEllen Haynes, Board Member

Raye Kimberlin, Board Member

Karen Schaeffer, Board Member

Signed on Tuesday, April 20, 2021