

Rochester teachers and their union, the Rochester Teachers Association, stand in solidarity with all who are demanding that racial justice finally become a reality. We acknowledge the grief and trauma that our members, our students and our communities feel.

Black lives do matter. The tragic and senseless killing of George Floyd is just one recent injustice in the long history of egregious assaults on people of color in our country. Centuries of racism, injustice, discrimination and unequal treatment in our country must finally end.

As teachers and unionists, we have a special responsibility and a special opportunity to learn, to change and to support our students in this time of crisis; to build relationships with our students' families and community; to continue to promote culturally responsive curricula and anti-racist pedagogy; to ensure that teachers know our students, their history, their culture and their realities; and to be racially just in our own interactions and practices.

We must work tirelessly towards a better and a more just society for all our children. Together.