

The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women stands in solidarity with the movements for racial justice

The National Clearinghouse for the Defense of Battered Women (NCDBW) shares the rage and despair felt by so many in the wake of the police killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and countless other Black people. We recognize that violence used to exert and maintain power and control includes racist state violence that white people have used to murder and oppress Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) throughout the history of this country.

NCDBW's longtime mission has been to increase justice for victims of battering who are charged with crimes. Oftentimes, victims are charged and incarcerated because of what they do in order to survive the abuse from their oppressor. BIPOC victims are especially likely to be surveilled, arrested, prosecuted, and incarcerated. These policing practices and this criminal legal system have done irreparable harm to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking – especially those who have been criminalized -- and to their children, families, and communities.

Much of our work at NCDBW is with people who are already embroiled within the criminal legal system – a system that relies upon oppressive and racist surveillance, policing, prosecution, and incarceration, and surveillance. We work hard to help people get out of that system as quickly as possible, with as little harm as possible.

We know that many organizations and institutions that purport to work for social justice – including NCDBW – are sometimes themselves oppressive. We are committed to doing daily work to recognize and dismantle white supremacy in our organization and others with which we work. White people, within our organization and everywhere, have a particular responsibility to acknowledge the privilege and engrained racism they have and to actively disrupt the status quo.

We support BIPOC-led campaigns that demand divestment from policing and prisons and increased investment in communities of color. It is time for police to stop targeting those who speak and act out against state violence. It is time to stop criminalizing being Black in the United States.

We join with our colleagues in the anti-violence and criminal defense communities and all those who are actively imagining a different future and who are working to build a world where all can thrive – a world without the structural racism and state violence bred by white supremacy. Black lives matter.