



Evangelische Kirche
in Deutschland

Kirchenamt

Kirchenamt der EKD • Postfach 21 02 20 • 30402 Hannover

June, 5th 2020

Unser Zeichen:
AZ 5340C/1

Ökumene und Auslandsarbeit

Presiding Bishop
Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
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Via Mail: bishop@elca.org

Bei Rückfragen:
Bischöfin Petra Bosse-Huber
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Dear Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton,
Dear Sisters and Brothers in the ELCA,

George Floyd's life has been taken in a horrific and shocking manner. Since he was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer, there have been protests and demonstrations in many places across the United States, in midst of the Corona crisis. His cry of "I can't breathe" is joined by the cries of other people of color, women, men and children throughout the country. We hear his cry, and we now see his words and his image memorialized in graffiti on a wall in Berlin's Mauerpark.

We note with concern how deep-rooted racism and division permeate US society and indeed the churches. We also see with concern how violence provokes counter-violence. It is not easy to maintain unity of the church in such a heated atmosphere while clearly siding with the victims of racism, standing up for humanity and exposing and combating the structural causes of racism.

We would like to let you know that we in the member churches of the EKD are in solidarity with you on the way to raise the prophetic voice against injustice and violence, to speak the truth clearly and

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unambiguously. And we share the concern to lose Unity in Church. In the worldwide ecumenical community, we try to live as a prophetic and, as well, a pastoral and integrating church with all the different people in our congregations.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount. As churches we are guided by the love of Christ. It is our common task to create opportunities for dialogue in the conflicts and to raise our voice peacefully against racism and injustice. I remember one word of Martin Luther King Jr., that has been made even more relevant as I write this letter today: "darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

In this season of Pentecost, we pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to stand up together for the breath and lives of our sisters and brothers of color and to commit ourselves to a peaceful society living in reconciled diversity towards justice and peace. We promise to combat racism together with you. May our partnership remind you of the fact that you do not do this work alone, and may this scripture give you strength – "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but the spirit of power, of courage and resolution, to meet difficulties and dangers; the spirit of love which will carry us through opposition" 2 Timothy 1:7.

In warm and deep solidarity,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Petra Bosse-Huber". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber

Head of the Department for Ecumenical

Relations and Ministries Abroad