

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2021

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FJP Statement on Verdict in the Derek Chauvin Trial

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to today's verdict in the Derek Chauvin trial:

“We are thankful that Derek Chauvin will be held accountable for taking George Floyd’s life. Yet the fact that there was ever a doubt about conviction in the face of overwhelming evidence is a sad indictment of our criminal legal system. Nor does the outcome in this case in any way diminish the urgent need for systemic change to policing in America.

Police kill around 1,000 people every year, but only [seven officers](#) have been convicted of murder in police shootings since 2005. At least [64 people](#), half of them people of color, have been killed by the police since the start of this trial. Accountability in a single case – while critical – is not enough to address this epidemic of lives lost, and reform around the edges also is not enough to do so; we must transform and reimagine how we create public safety.

Our nation needs broad, structural reforms *now*: alternative non-police first responders and a smaller footprint generally for policing; national and uniform use of force standards that respect the dignity of all human life; the demilitarization of police and policing departments; accountability mechanisms that reject union-negotiated protections that enable those who have no right to wear the badge and carry a gun to remain on the job; and an end to the deadly and failed ‘tough on crime’ war on drugs that has decimated communities of color. And 21st Century Prosecutors need to stand up and drive this shifting of priorities and be transparent in holding police accountable.

Meanwhile, we must ensure that officers like Derek Chauvin – who had a [history of misconduct](#) that went largely undisciplined – are not put in a position where they have the power to end someone’s life.

It cannot be said that justice was served today because true justice would be George Floyd – and all other victims of police violence – being alive today. We have a moral imperative to continue fighting for change so that we see the end of state-sanctioned violence against *all* of our communities.”

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).