

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Miriam Krinsky

krinskym@krinsky.la

818-416-5218

FJP Statement on the Sentencing of Derek Chauvin

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to today's sentencing of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd:

“Since the day Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd – just over two months ago – [at least 136 people](#) have been killed at the hands of law enforcement. And we know that the majority of officers will [never](#) face any criminal liability for their wrongdoing.

While today's sentencing of Derek Chauvin is an important recognition that the courts *can* hold individual officers liable for blatant police violence, no prison sentence – whatever the length – could have delivered true and meaningful accountability. Accountability would require the institutions that enabled George Floyd's murder to change and ensure that similar tragedies do not continue to take place. Instead, we've seen more lives lost to police violence nearly every single day.

Individual convictions and sentences will never be the answer as long as a violent response is the starting point in the American policing system, rather than the last resort in *all* cases. Our nation needs broad, structural reforms to reimagine public safety: alternative non-police first responders who can address the needs and challenges of individuals struggling with poverty, substance use and so much more that we overextend and expect law enforcement not trained in these areas to address; 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 for decades. And 21st Century Prosecutors need to stand up and drive this shifting of priorities and be proactive and 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.

We know that we cannot achieve real justice for George Floyd and all other victims of police violence, but we will continue fighting for change until our criminal legal system values and protects *all* members of our diverse 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](#).