



(Photo: Union members and concerned citizens joined ILWU Locals on a Juneteenth march in Oakland against systemic racism.)

Equality Under the Law

“Equality is the heart and essence of democracy, freedom, and justice, equality of opportunity in industry, in labor unions, schools and colleges, government, politics, and before the law.”

- A. Phillip Randolph

The Maritime Labor Alliance stands together in outrage at the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and the countless other victims of the systemic racial hatred and violence that has plagued our nation since its inception.

As labor unions we must not remain silent. It is our purpose to advance economic justice, to protect our members from any form of discrimination. We are committed to continue to push back against corporate greed and to empower our members to fight for a more inclusive nation.

Social justice cannot exist without equality under the law. Racial discrimination, bigotry and violence cripples the labor movement and prevents the unity and advancement of working people. We condemn the actions of those who wreak violence instead of protecting others. We demand the accountability of our elected officials. To create real change in our society they must advance policies that apply the wealth of this nation be ending poverty, and providing equal opportunity in employment, education and healthcare.

A healthy society cannot exist where the evils of the past are not recognized and atoned for, but instead are transformed and perpetuated. Every Union member and member of society must do their part to build bridges with one another. We must demand justice and well-being for all – and we must demand it from all: from our elected President, from every civil servant and from every citizen. Racism has no place in our government, in civil society, in the labor movement and especially in the police departments that protect and serve our nation. The poison of racism at the heart of our nation must cease.

We the undersigned organizations demand racial justice in our workplaces and communities and pledge our efforts to realize the promise of America: a promise of equality, opportunity and justice for all.

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(Photo: The engine crew on the container ship APL GUAM keeps things running smoothly on another successful overseas run)



The Maritime Labor Alliance consists of five leading maritime labor unions: American Radio Association (ARA), Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific (IBU), International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.), and International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots (MM&P). Together, we represent maritime workers employed in every sector of the industry. Members of MLA unions have served the country on the docks and at sea in peace and war from 1875 to today.