



## **NAMI NH Statement on Verdict in Murder Trial of Derek Chauvin (April 20, 2021)**

NAMI New Hampshire applauds the guilty verdicts returned in the murder trial of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd. **The murder of George Floyd brought renewed awareness to how racism negatively impacts mental health and the need to address racism as an important public health issue.**

As part of our strategic planning process, NAMI NH is working to advance diversity, equity and inclusion throughout our organization. We are doing this work to further our mission of improving the lives of all people impacted by mental illness and suicide, including communities of color who are historically underserved.

**George Floyd's murder also underscored the need to continue to address excessive use of deadly force by law enforcement.** In the Chauvin trial, fellow law enforcement officers and leaders turned out in force to testify against Chauvin, a recognition that the use of deadly force must be reduced. In New Hampshire, fifty percent of fatalities from officer-involved shootings have been people with known mental illness. NAMI NH will continue to provide and promote training to law enforcement that focuses on de-escalation strategies and techniques. Today NAMI NH recalls and reflects on the words of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

*Mental health resources for BIPOC/AAPI communities and allies are available at <https://www.naminh.org/resources-2/bipoc/>.*

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## **NAMI National's Statement on the Outcome of the Derek Chauvin Trial (April 20, 2021)**

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) today released the following statement from CEO Daniel H. Gillison Jr., on the verdict in the trial of Derek Chauvin:

**"The murder of George Floyd last May in Minneapolis – and the continued killing of Black and other people of color by law enforcement – has had a profound impact on the mental health of our communities.** The effects of trauma and re-traumatization are real, and it's time we stop pretending the exposure to continued violence and death does not affect individuals and communities as a whole. As we have said before, racism is a public health crisis.

Today's verdict is historic. Unlike in so many other cases of racial violence, justice has been served. **This is a victory, but the fight for racial justice and against systematic racial violence is not over.**

At NAMI, we are committed to providing hope and help to all who are in need. If you are looking for information and mental health resources or want to learn more about the impact of culture and identity on our mental health, please visit [www.nami.org/CulturalDimensions](http://www.nami.org/CulturalDimensions). You are not alone."