

Take Action to #DefendBlackLives

Campaigns to Follow

Movement for Black Lives

- [Overall themes and local campaigns](#)

Campaign Zero

- [8 policing policies to implement at the local level now](#)
- [Police Use of Force Project](#)
- [Tweet thread](#) about evidence-based reforms to stop police violence now.

NAACP We Are Done Dying Campaign

- [Campaign description](#)

Joint Petition: Address Police Violence Immediately

- [Hosted by Daily Kos](#), endorsed by BYP100, MPower Change, Arab American Civic Council, and many others.

Winning Justice: The Prosecutor Project

- [Six demands](#)

Demand Change to Stop Police Violence

1.) Remove barriers to accountability

Break the power of police unions

Police unions are not like other labor unions that defend workers' rights. Instead, they are powerful special interest lobbies that threaten public safety by creating barriers to police accountability for violence.

- Learn more about how police collective bargaining is linked to higher rates of killings:
 - [Planet Money](#)
 - [Tweet thread](#)
 - See also, this [evidence from Florida](#)

- Learn more about how police union contracts interfere with officer accountability.
 - [Check the Police](#) project
 - [Reuters](#) report
 - Read about [Austin's experience](#) challenging their police union contract.
- Defeat [HR 1154](#), a dangerous bill that would increase the power of police unions.

End “Qualified Immunity” for police officers who kill people

Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine that shields many police officers from personal liability, even in many cases where they have violated people’s civil and Constitutional rights.

- Read more about how qualified immunity creates a [dangerous lack of accountability](#) for police violence.
- Read more about how [restructuring civil liability](#) for officer misconduct would reduce police violence.
- Bicameral legislation to end qualified immunity:
 - Support the [Harris, Booker, Markey resolution](#) in the U.S. Senate to end qualified immunity
 - Support Ayanna Pressley and Justin Amash’s [bipartisan bill in the House](#)

Reinstate Federal consent decrees

The Trump administration has [gutted](#) federal-local agreements known as “consent decrees,” which are meant to provide federal oversight to ensure local police departments are respecting civil rights.

- Read more [here](#) about why this change dismantled one of the most effective ways to reduce police violence, and why these consent decrees must be urgently reinstated.

Establish a national database of police killings and misconduct

To this day, the federal government does not maintain a national database on officer-involved shootings, fatalities, and misconduct.

- The result is that rogue officers such as the man who [killed Tamir Rice](#) have been able to shuttle between different police departments despite records of abuse. Officers with histories of misconduct should never be allowed to work in other police departments.

2.) Demilitarize the police

End the program that distributes surplus military equipment to local police forces:

The 1033 program allows the military to distribute surplus military gear, including flash-bang grenades and other weapons, to local police departments. This heavy arming and militarization of local police forces is a threat to public safety and the rights of all U.S. people to express dissent.

- Read more about how police militarization under the 1033 program has been linked to [higher rates of violence](#).
- Support [legislative efforts](#) to end the 1033 program, including by introducing an [amendment](#) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Bar military from being called in against protests under the Insurrection Act

Support Senator Tim Kaine's [amendment to the NDAA](#) to ensure the U.S. military cannot be deployed to suppress peaceful protests.

3.) Reform police tactics and limit the use of force

Create a federal use of force standard

Support the [PEACE Act](#) in the House (introduced in summer of 2019), which would condition federal grants to local police departments on compliance with a federal use of force standard.

Federal chokehold ban

Congress should ban the violent police tactic that led to the deaths of George Floyd, Eric Garner, and far too many other people. This proposal is included in the [police reform package](#) recently proposed by the Congressional Black Caucus.

End “no-knock” warrants

In parts of the country, police are allowed to enter people's homes without prior warning, bursting down people's doors with battering rams and instantly creating a violent situation. “No-knock” search warrants of this kind contributed to the death of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, a 26-year-old health worker who was killed by armed police in her own home.

- Learn more about the practice of “no-knock” warrants and how they are [linked to violence](#).
- Support local efforts to end this practice, such as by passing [Breonna’s Law](#) in Louisville.

4.) Reduce police interventions

Increase funding for non-police mental health interventions

Only a small fraction of the incidents police respond to involve violent crime. Meanwhile, armed police routinely respond to mental health incidents, thereby escalating incidents that could have been handled in nonviolent ways by community workers with different training.

- Read the [evidence](#) for why community-based responses to mental health issues that do not rely on police have been shown to reduce violence.

Defund the police

Congress should eliminate appropriations for federal grant programs that increase local police budgets and other federal grant programs for local police departments. At the very least, they should drastically scale back funding for these programs and condition the receipt of funds on major reforms to increase accountability and limit use of force.

Stop criminalizing communities

Ending all forms of [criminalization](#) and the over-policing of low-level and nonviolent offenses would also reduce violence by limiting the number of police interventions. This includes ending cash bail, reforming bench warrants, decriminalizing drug use and sex work, ending the school-to-prison pipeline, reversing policies that make migration a crime, and much more.

- Read more [here](#) about the Movement for Black Lives’ policy platform to end the war on Black people.
- Read the Black Alliance for Just Immigration’s report on the [State of Black Immigrants in the Mass Criminalization System](#).