



AS YOU SOW

## **AS YOU SOW STATEMENT ON RECENT POLICE KILLINGS OF BLACK SUSPECTS AND LETHAL RETALIATION AGAINST POLICE**

**July 19, 2016 - Oakland, CA** – This statement was prompted by video evidence released showing police officers killing Alton Sterling in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Philando Castile in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, following a line of similar deaths at the hands of police. This was followed by the killing of five police officers with nine wounded in Dallas, Texas.

***In response, As You Sow has released the following statement:***

As You Sow recognizes that communities of color face injustice every day. We are adding our voice to the many that are speaking, because to remain silent is to be complicit. We stand in solidarity with all people who seek to find solutions to the inequality, poverty, and injustice that underpins this surge of violence.

Our organization's vision statement declares that we seek to "build a safe, just, and sustainable world." We wholeheartedly believe that safety and justice are basic human rights and that all people deserve equal protection under the law and the right to a life free of discrimination, hatred, and violence. Race-based violence undermines both safety and justice, including in our Oakland community.

We condemn police violence against people of color. We condemn revenge assaults on police. We state our support for those who say that Black Lives Matter, and for those who demand justice and are working to find solutions to the racism, inequality, and polarization that continues to grow. We support the comprehensive policy recommendations from *Campaign Zero* which are designed to address problems with the way police interact with communities of color that can lead to violence.

Together, we can build a safe, just, and sustainable world, for all of us.

The As You Sow Staff