

# Anti-racism Protests

There has been lots of information in the news and on social media about the death of George Floyd and the protests in the US and UK.

The following slides will explain what has been happening and give you some ideas on what you can do if you want to make a change.

# George Floyd was killed by police

On **25th May** George Floyd was arrested outside a shop because the shopkeeper believed he paid with a fake bank note. The police officer that arrested him pushed him to the ground and held him there with his **knee on Floyd's neck** for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Floyd could be heard saying **'I can't breath'**. He was taken to hospital and then **pronounced dead.**

You can read a full account of what happened [here](#).



# Protests began in Minneapolis

A video of Floyd's death was shared and the next day protests began, calling for the police officer Derek Chauvin to be prosecuted for murdering Floyd. Police responded to the protests by using tear gas and rubber bullets to break up crowds.



# Protests started in other US cities

On May 27th, protests began in other places in America such as Memphis and Los Angeles.



# The National Guard was mobilised

On May 28th, The National Guard (part of the US army) was called in to stop protests in Minneapolis.



# Donald Trump tweeted

On May 29th. Donald Trump tweeted calling the protesters “thugs” and said, “When the looting starts, the shooting starts.” This caused more tension.



Donald J. Trump ✓  
@realDonaldTrump

This Tweet violated the Twitter Rules about glorifying violence. However, Twitter has determined that it may be in the public's interest for the Tweet to remain accessible. [Learn more](#)

...These THUGS are dishonoring the memory of George Floyd, and I won't let that happen. Just spoke to Governor Tim Walz and told him that the Military is with him all the way. Any difficulty and we will assume control but, when the looting starts, the shooting starts. Thank you!

5:53 AM · May 29, 2020 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

# More protests in US and UK

The protests have continued in America and on Sunday **31st May** there were also protests in London. Some of these broke the social distancing guidelines that are in place to stop the spread of Coronavirus.



Watch this video to get a summary of what has happened.



Questions to think about and discuss:

What has made people so angry?

Is this an isolated event?

Are the methods that protesters are using the right ones?

What should Donald Trump and the leaders in America and other countries be doing?



# What can you do when you want to create change?

The lockdown rules in the UK mean that taking part in a protest can put people in danger of catching the virus. There are lots of other ways you can act to make a change in society!

## Positive action steps:

- Write a **letter or email** to your MP or to the Police Commissioner (see the next slide)
- **Read and listen** to information about anti-racism activism. Check your house bulletins for a reading list from Ms Doherty.
- You can find information on a virtual talk about 'challenging inequality' [here](#)
- Use **social media** to lobby by sharing videos, images and using hashtags
- Sign a **petition**
- Donate to a [charity](#)
- Get creative by contributing to the **Heartlands 'A voice for Change' Gallery.**

# Be a 'Voice for change'

**Challenge:** create an artistic response to what you have learnt from these slides and what you have seen in the news.

## It can be in the form of:

- A piece of artwork or photography
- A poem
- A song or piece of music
- A story or piece of creative writing
- A speech
- Anything else creative!

Email your response to **Ms Heath and Ms Postlethwaite** and we will showcase them in the Heartlands 'voice for change' gallery.



You can look at some inspiring examples [here](#)

# Template: A letter to your MP

*Dear [MP's name - Catherine West or David Lammy],*

*I am writing to you to express my concern about...*

*Firstly, I believe that...*

*Secondly, it is really important that...*

*Thirdly, ...*

*Therefore, I urge you to...*

*Your sincerely,*

*[Your full name]*

# Contact Details for your letter or email

You can find out who your MP is and how to contact them [here](#):

If you live in Hornsey, Wood Green or Tottenham the your MP will be David Lammy or Catherine West.

## Email:

Catherine west: [catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:catherine.west.mp@parliament.uk)

David Lammy: [lammyd@parliament.uk](mailto:lammyd@parliament.uk)

## Postal address:

[Their name]

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

If you send a email, copy in  
your form tutor and/or  
Citizenship teacher!

**You could also write to The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime about policing in London:**

Email: [enquiries@mopac.london.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@mopac.london.gov.uk)

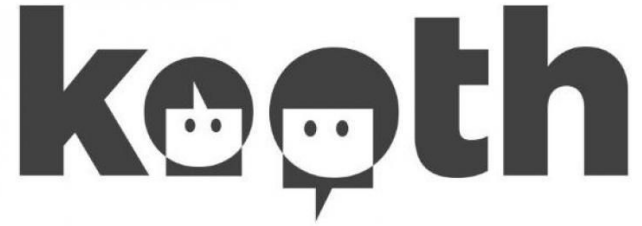
# Where can you go for support?



Contact your form tutor or head of house if you are feeling worried or need any support!



You can report crimes anonymously through [Fearless](https://www.fearless.org)



You can get counselling and support online from

[Kooth](https://www.kooth.com)