



On the Killing of George Floyd

We join all who mourn for George Floyd and his family. His brutal killing at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers is an egregious example of the abuse of police power, reverberating worldwide. His death, on the heels of the killing of Dreasjon “Sean” Reed and Breonna Taylor, has been very difficult for our nation, focusing yet again on police misconduct, opening deep wounds, and raising larger issues of race and justice.

The Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) recognizes that the officers involved in these and other senseless deaths do not represent the good work police officers do every day to improve the lives of all citizens. They do not represent the values of community policing. They do not represent you, our public safety community, who are often in harm’s way as dozens of officers sacrifice their lives every year to protect the community they serve.

GILEE has provided law enforcement leadership training to improve police services and enhance public safety since its establishment in 1992. Its leadership programs have served more than 1,800 law enforcement and other public safety executives and trained more than 34,000 public safety personnel in numerous professional programs in nearly 30 states and two dozen countries. Policing and public safety in numerous American communities have been improved and strengthened through this training, and lives have been saved.

GILEE is guided by the [principles of community policing](#) as defined in 1992. These principles emphasize a proactive approach to policing based on partnership-building and concern for civil rights and liberties. Those who receive GILEE training have embraced its emphasis on the rule of law, fairness, being service-focused and enhancing joint efforts to proactively lift up our communities. They follow GILEE’s community policing principles that promote partnerships, collaboration and community engagement to help reduce crime and for the betterment of public safety for all.

The abuse of power by law enforcement officers is unacceptable on all counts: morally, legally and professionally. It carries with it the loss of trust and is counterproductive to the ideals behind the provision of professional and ethical police service to the community. It also places an indelible stain on the good work our dedicated, hardworking officers exemplify, day-in and day-out. The hurt and anger are understandable, and it is commendable that the protesters reject those who seek to co-opt a peaceful movement with violence and destruction.

GILEE sends its sympathy to the family of George Floyd and all who have suffered. GILEE lends its support to its graduates, police and public safety executives, who are committed to upholding the values the law enforcement profession represents. We thank you for your service.

It is the concern of all to keep the peace and protect our community’s people and property. Public safety is a co-production that requires collaboration between police and the community, and it is imperative that the community play its role in this partnership. Police cannot deal with crime alone. Your promotion of and adherence to the principles of community policing will continue to enhance public safety, serve as a model to end the use of excessive force, and provide high quality police services that all members of your community deserve.