



Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival

ON BEHALF OF THE AICLS BOARD AND STAFF:

The Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival stand in support and solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter movements occurring nationally and internationally. We recognize that the recent killings of George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery are not just isolated incidents, and that there are countless others that have not been documented, filmed or made public.

As an organization dedicated to Indigenous language and cultural survival, we stand with our Black relatives and other people of color against white supremacy, colonialism, state-sanctioned violence, systemic racism upheld and perpetuated in law enforcement, inaction by leadership, and countless acts of microaggressions and linguistic racism experienced each day.

We offer the following resources to **read, watch, listen, donate to** and **support**:

- Read, Watch and Listen: [List of books, films, and podcasts about racism](#).
- Donate to support [#BlackLivesMatter](#)
- Support: [Here are some ways to help](#). Attend a protest or demonstration if you feel motivated and safe to do so.

We encourage and support Indigenous language translations of "Black Lives Matter," and adopt inclusive terms in our languages to do so if needed. Many terms in Indigenous California languages referring to relatives of African ancestry were adopted during the Mission and Gold Rush eras of our history, and may not be respectful in present day use. Read this article for an example of another community making those changes: [Black Lives Matter translation prompts calls for changes to Ojibway language](#). Now is the time to listen and reflect on what could change and what it means to be inclusive in our hearts, minds and communities.

We encourage you to speak your languages, it is an act of decolonization, resistance, activism and resilience. At AICLS, the focus of our organization is the revitalization and survival of Indigenous California languages. One of our programs is called Breath of Life and exists for the purpose of breathing life into languages considered dead after generations of genocide enacted upon California's Indigenous people. We recognize the key component to speak language is the ability to breathe. We know intimately the concern of survival as people of color who share a history of trauma in this country. Language is important to achieve a world in which all future generations may live and breathe.