



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
2421 Rayburn House Office Building  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

On June 1<sup>st</sup> people from across the District of Columbia and surrounding areas came together, peacefully, in Lafayette Square to protest the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police. They gathered to protest the systemic racism prevalent across the United States that led to that moment. For the afternoon hours people from all walks of life chanted, played music and expressed their views as protected by the First Amendment.

At 6:35pm, that all changed. Federally controlled military and law-enforcement units advanced on those assembled, firing powerful rubber pellets and other munitions into the crowd, without warning and without provocation, pushing the law abiding gathering out of Lafayette Square by force. Military helicopters under federal control were used throughout the evening hovering over DC streets in an attempt to send both debris, and therefore protesters, scattering.

The federal forces took these military actions against the people of DC, without so much as notifying the locally elected mayor, nor the DC Chief of Police. If DC were a state, military actions against the population could not happen without the Governor's involvement.

The same systemic racism that the country is protesting is at the root of the District's lack of full self-government, lack of representation. A majority of color jurisdiction continues to be overseen by a majority white unelected body, denying statehood for reasons of partisanship (as recently acknowledged by the President). This is simply wrong.

The 700,000 parents, siblings, family members, and individuals who call Washington, DC home should not fear ongoing occupation by federal forces. It is wrong on its face, and it is even more egregious given the exclusion of these Americans from representation.

EQUALITY FOR DC

1111 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005 [DCVote.org](https://DCVote.org)



We, the undersigned organizations, representing millions of Americans, call on Congress to immediately take three steps. First, give local DC officials control over the DC National Guard, in line with each state. Second, revoke the President's authority to federalize the local DC Metropolitan Police Department. Finally, pass H.R. 51, the DC Admissions Act, to make DC a state and to end more than two hundred years of oppression. Statehood is the permanent solution to make the residents of Washington, DC full citizens of the United States and its time has come.

Sincerely,

DC Vote  
350 DC  
51 for 51  
Advocates for Youth  
AFL-CIO  
African American Ministers In Action  
Alliance for a Just Society  
Alliance for Justice  
American Ethical Union  
American Family Voices  
Anacostia Coordinating Council  
Arm in Arm DC  
Audubon Naturalist Society  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network  
California LGBTQ Health and Human  
Services Network  
Campaigning to Decriminalize Nature DC  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Community Progress  
Center for Disability Rights  
Center for Popular Democracy  
CenterLink: The Community for LGBT  
Centers  
Clean Elections Texas  
Clean Water Action  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
CODEPINK  
Common Cause  
Community Change Action  
DC Environmental Network

DC NORML  
DC Statehood - Yes We Can!  
DC Statehood coalition  
DC Statehood Green Party  
Death with Dignity National Center  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
DemCast USA  
Democracy 21  
Democracy for America  
Disability Rights Education & Defense  
Fund (DREDF)  
End Citizens United // Let America Vote  
Action Fund  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Free Speech For People  
Green Compass LLC  
Greenpeace US  
Grounded Solutions Network  
Health in Justice Action Lab-DC,  
Northeastern University School of Law  
Herd on the Hill  
HIPS (Honoring Individual Power &  
Strength  
Human Rights Campaign  
Indivisible  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Lambda Legal  
League of Women Voters of the United  
States  
March For Our Lives

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Minority Veterans of America  
Modern Military Association of America  
NAACP  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National CAPACD - National Coalition for  
Asian Pacific American Community  
Development  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Employment Law Project  
National Equality Action Team  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National LGBT Cancer Network  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Organization for Women, DC  
Chapter  
National Women's Law Center  
Neighbors United for DC Statehood  
New Progressive Alliance  
NOPE Neighbors  
Our Revolution DC  
Peace Action  
People For the American Way

Pride at Work  
Public Justice Center  
Rachel Carson Council  
Revolving Door Project  
Rural Coalition  
Senior Citizens Matter  
Service Employees International Union  
32BJ  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club, Washington DC Chapter  
Stand Up America  
Strategies for Youth  
Street Pictures  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
The Daniel Initiative  
The Democracy Initiative  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and  
Human Rights  
True Colors United  
Unite Here Local25  
Ward 3 Democrats  
Washington Ethical Society  
Women's Bar Association of the District of  
Columbia  
Women's Information Network

# EQUALITY FOR DC

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