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**Majlis Ash-Shura Official Press Conference Statement**

**(New York, New York- 06/09/2020)**--On behalf of the New York City Muslim community, we support our black brothers and sisters in the fight for justice and equity in a country rooted in deep-seated racism, both structural and overt. We support protest movements and those who are demanding structural changes in law enforcement, criminal justice reform, and justice for black victims of a racist system. The Muslim community stands by you, and we are committed to building coalitions and actively engage in anti-Racist work in support of the Black community.

Structural racism is pervasive in **every** facet of life that you can possibly think of. From housing discrimination, education, politics and legislation, police brutality, loans and mortgage, gentrification, workplace discrimination and more. Structural racism criminalizes our brown and black youth within our schools through harsh disciplinary policies which penalize black children at an alarming rate than others, and outsource disciplinary procedures from schools to juvenile courts, creating a school-to-prison pipeline. Structural racism terrorizes our youth through police brutality and law enforcement intimidation tactics. Structural racism prevents lower socioeconomic black and brown communities from thriving economically, socially, and politically by creating impossible barriers of social mobility and enforces a cycle of violence upon them psychologically, physically, and emotionally beginning from childhood well into their adulthood. We must do better and we must invest in our black youth to break this cycle of oppression.

As a leading Muslim organization, we are committing ourselves to be better advocates of social justice through the guidance of our Black Muslim leadership. The New York Muslim community is beautifully diverse and represents every race and ethnicity. We must make sure that our community thrives by actively fighting against the institutional barriers that prohibit its success. We are committed to empowering and investing in our Muslim black institutions, to battling



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anti-blackness and biases within the Muslim community through education, and fostering better relationships between inner-city Muslim business owners and their local communities.

Furthermore, we are committed to amplifying our Black Muslim voices and creating more opportunities for our Black youth to succeed in life.

Moving forward, we are forming an Anti-Racism Working Committee to execute action items in relation to grassroots organizing, educational material, and community relations. We are working with our Black Muslim leaders on material to better educate the rest of the Muslim community on anti-Black bias and prejudice in addition to black history, oppression, and achievements to Islam's rich and diverse traditions. We are working towards adding these curriculum changes in our schools, community centers, mosques and khutbas. And we will vigorously advocate for legislative proposals demanding alternatives to policing and law enforcement intimidation which has consistently targeted Muslims and communities-of-color.