

Subject line: Your story x EmbraceRace: Remembering George Floyd

Preheader: The challenges and reasons for despair are real and foregrounded. But we see reasons for hope and are asking you, EmbraceRacers, to share yours



embrace**race**
RAISING A BRAVE GENERATION. TOGETHER.



Hi Pamela,

Two years ago tomorrow, on May 25th, 2020, a White police officer murdered a defenseless Black man named George Perry Floyd Jr. in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The incident sparked nationwide (and global) protests against police brutality and racial injustice, the largest since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Some believed that the moment might mark a turning point in the halting, centuries-long drive for true multiracial democracy in the United States.

Join us in honoring George Floyd's life by sharing stories of community healing and hope in the time since his death. In the face of anti-Asian hate, widespread efforts to deny our children an honest reckoning with race, endless police shootings, the mainstreaming of "replacement theory," and other forms of racialized violence, how has your immediate or wider community helped you find healing, restoration, and hope?

We're looking for something short and sweet (50-250-words) that we can share, selectively, on our website or via social media. Let us know if you would like us to include your name or prefer to remain anonymous. We will collect your stories between now and June 6th and start posting them this Friday (May 27th). **Please use [this form](#) to submit your story.**

Hope is not baseless optimism. Together, hope and community spur us to reimagine what's possible. Here at EmbraceRace, we see many reasons for hope, both great and small. Just a few of the developments that buoy us in these challenging times:

- This summer, **Ketanji Brown Jackson** will be sworn in as the first Black woman to sit on the US Supreme Court.
- **Karine Jean-Pierre** is now White House press secretary, the first immigrant, Black or openly gay person to hold the position.
- 8 year-old Sarah writes EmbraceRace to say that "Every Friday I get 4 Quarters. I saved up \$15. I am giving it to you to stop racism. Thank you for your work."
- **Kids and teens create banned book clubs** after legislatures across the country ban books about historic and present day racism, antisemitism, and homophobia in public schools.
- Pushback notwithstanding, **educators across the country are using the 1619 Project** to examine the legacy of slavery and its relationship to the development of today's institutions.
- **Multi-hued demonstrations** for Black Lives and for Asian Lives testify to the growth in cross-racial solidarity movements among the country's youth.
- **Students of color in Chicago** protest an egregious incident of racial microaggressions at their high school.

- The **George Floyd Global Memorial** at the intersection of 38th Street E and Chicago Avenue S in Minneapolis, MN is now home to more than 3,000 offerings of respect, grief, and solidarity - and continues to grow.

It's your turn: **what brings you hope?** We honor Mr. Floyd by sharing these stories in community. In his name, we spotlight hope and, together, lean into what's possible.

May he rest in peace and power.

Andrew & Melissa

P.S. **[Here's the link to the submission form.](#)**



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THANK YOU.

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Stories of Community Healing and Hope in Honor of George Floyd's Life

A way to honor George Floyd's life is by sharing stories of community healing and hope in the two years since his murder. While racialized violence continues, it is our collective stories of healing and hope that help us persevere.

We invite you to share a story of community healing and hope on this form. Your story may be shared with the EmbraceRace community via our website or other social media channels, and we may *lightly* edit for length or clarity if needed. Sharing your demographic information is optional, and you can let us know if you'd like your name or initials attached to your contribution, or if you'd like to remain anonymous.

This form will remain open until 6/6/22; we hope to begin sharing responses by Friday, 5/27/22.

 pamelagrow@gmail.com (not shared) [Switch account](#)



* Required

In the two years since George Floyd's murder, and with continued racialized violence in the country, how has your immediate or wider community helped you heal or find hope? (approximately 50-250 words) *

Your answer

Your name (optional)

Your answer



Let us know whether you would like to be acknowledged in full (first and last name) or prefer your story posted with your first name or initials only, or would like to remain completely anonymous.

- Full (first and last) name
- First name only
- Initials only
- Anonymous

Your email (optional)

Your answer _____

Your racial identity (optional)

Your answer _____

In which city, state, or country are you located? (optional)

Your answer _____

What caregiver role(s) do you play in the lives of children? (optional; check all that apply)

- Parent/guardian
- Other family member (aunt, uncle, grandparent, older sibling, etc.)
- Educator or childcare professional
- Other service provider



Hi Pamela,

Shoppers at a supermarket in a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York.

Worshippers at a Taiwanese American church in Orange County, California.

Children at a predominantly Latine/a/o elementary school in Uvalde, Texas.

30 people killed, more wounded, families and friends left devastated and grieving.

All in the span of 11 days.

Of course, those numbers don't begin to capture the true breadth and depth of the impact of these and similar, all-too-familiar incidents on children and communities, both local and national. Whatever the shooters' specific motivations in each case, the effects of their crimes ripple far beyond the victims and their friends and families. We wonder how many children in those communities, and across the country, are newly afraid to go shopping, attend worship services, or go to school.

Yesterday we invited you to [share your stories of healing and hope](#) to honor George Floyd's memory on this second anniversary of his murder - and to "spur us to reimagine what's possible." Today, in the immediate wake of the atrocity in Uvalde, **we acknowledge that hope feels elusive for many of us. And that for others, stories of healing and hope are exactly what's needed.**

We will continue to gather your stories and reflections and begin posting them next week, rather than this Friday (May 27th), as originally proposed. We are also extending the timeline for submission through the end of June. **Take your time. We invite you to be in community with us when you're ready.**

What's giving you hope? Submit your story

In the meantime, many of us - including those of us at EmbraceRace - are grappling with the question of how best to support ourselves and the children in our lives at moments like these. As one colleague noted, it's one thing to try to inform, soothe, and comfort when these incidents are few and far between. That is not our reality. Tragically, the United States has more mass shootings than days in the year.

We hope you will find the resources below helpful and that you will share them with others in your circles who might benefit from them.

Rooting for us,

Andrew, Melissa & the whole EmbraceRace Team

Resources

- [Talking to kids in the wake of mass violence](#) from EmbraceRace
- [Helping your children manage distress in the aftermath of a shooting](#) from the American Psychological Association
- [APA resources for coping with mass shootings, understanding gun violence](#) from the American Psychological Association



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THANK YOU.

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Your stories of hope



In advance of the second anniversary of George Floyd's murder, we invited you to [share your stories of healing and hope](#) to honor his memory and "spur us to reimagine what's possible." Specifically, we asked you to tell us how your immediate or wider community has helped you heal or find hope in the wake of that traumatic event and in the midst of ongoing racialized violence in the United States.

Some of you sent in stories immediately. **Stories like this one.**

My community has come together on many occasions to support each other in the wake of racialized violence. In particular, my school community is unafraid to address issues that people might feel challenged to discuss, and I am grateful for that. But, more than anything, I find hope in my students ... My students make me laugh; they show me what resilience looks like; they remind me that they are here in front of me to learn and grow; they need me and I need them.

Alicia Lopez, educator

It felt like a big hug to get those initial stories of hope!

And then, the day after we issued our call for stories, Uvalde happened - and we had a hard time finding hope ourselves. But one of our team members pointed out that for many, stories of healing and hope are exactly what many of us need in extremely challenging times.

Sure enough, the stories kept coming in. Thank you.

This is our last [call for submissions](#). We will continue to gather your 50-250-word Stories of Hope through July 8th and will start sharing some of them even sooner. We hope yours will be one of them.

[Submit your story](#)

We all need stories of hope and most of us get to those stories, eventually, if we dig deep. What're you seeing in your corner of the world that makes you hopeful? [Let us know here](#).

Yours,

Andrew, Melissa & the whole EmbraceRace team