

July 10, 2020

Board of Directors  
Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation  
[patrissemarie@gmail.com](mailto:patrissemarie@gmail.com)

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Dear Black Lives Matter Board of Directors:

We are in one of the most critical times in history in terms of Black freedom struggle. This movement-moment was fed by the pain and oppression of our people, but with it comes great opportunity to transform the world. Black Lives Matter stands at the front of this revolutionary call. It is vital that we move forward thoughtfully and intentionally, honoring the Black radical tradition, the mighty-warrior Ancestors from which we hail, the beautiful Black communities of which we are a part, and the generations which are to come. We believe that the current structure and thrust of the Network and Foundation fails to position us in this way and are calling for immediate change, that we not squander what lies before us.

As has been communicated through one-on-one conversations, emails, and communications with several chapter representatives as well as conveyed in group contexts to Kailee Scales, there is a growing sentiment of dissatisfaction with her role in the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation (the "Foundation"). By and large, chapters have grown frustrated with the way in which she has ushered the Foundation away from the political identity of Black Lives Matter in attempts to mainstream our message and direction. To be clear, Black Lives Matter was founded as a Black radical organization, committed to transforming the world in the ways necessary for our people to live and walk freely, not to carve out places of inclusion and comfort in the midst of oppression. Moreover, we explicitly ascribe to Ella Baker's group-centered leadership praxis (as we say we are a "leaderful" movement); the way in which Kailee has made decisions unilaterally, ignoring calls for accountability is incongruous with our approach. Finally, she has disrespected and disregarded the vital work of Black Lives Matter chapters, communicating repeatedly that "no one even knows we have chapters," arriving in cities and making public presentations without communicating with chapters, and using local press and social media in ways that contradict the local work of chapters. Moreover, she has positioned herself as the national spokesperson when she has absolutely no experience doing work on the ground and has embraced a political positioning that is antithetical to our efforts. As such, we are requiring the following in the immediate and no later than July 31, 2020.

1. The immediate resignation and/or removal of Kailee Scales as Managing Director and/or employee of Black Lives Matter, with no further affiliation with the Network or Foundation.
2. Release of names and contacts of all members of the Board of Directors.
3. Disclosure of financial resources held and distributed by the Foundation.

4. The implementation of a chapter-driven advisement and decision-making structure, that will be forthcoming from the chapter base.
5. A public statement made collaboratively by the Foundation and chapters addressing the public confusion regarding fundraising, ideology, campaigns, relationships, priorities, and leadership.
6. Chapter access to the Foundation’s social media platforms through a vetted set of chapter representatives.
7. Open communication with chapters with regard to plans and direction of the Foundation on at least a monthly basis.
8. Revisitation and revision of chapter agreements to protect and advance the interests of chapters as well as the Foundation.
9. Chapter authority to work with the Foundation to on-board and resource new and unofficial chapters.
10. Required chapter approval of Board member appointments and hiring.
11. Chapter representation on the Foundation Board.

We are confident that with these changes we can step into what this moment in history requires of us. We are requesting a virtual meeting during the week of July 13, 2020 to confirm that our requirements will be met and discuss implementation. Questions or concerns can be addressed to Melina Abdullah at [docmellymel@gmail.com](mailto:docmellymel@gmail.com), Angela Austin [angela@oneloveglobal.org](mailto:angela@oneloveglobal.org), Chanelle Helm at [louisville@blacklivesmatter.com](mailto:louisville@blacklivesmatter.com), and YahNé Ndgo at [yahne@bluwomyn.com](mailto:yahne@bluwomyn.com). Thank you in advance.

Peace, Love, and Justice,  
 Black Lives Matter-5280 (Denver)  
 Black Lives Matter-Boston  
 Black Lives Matter-California  
 Black Lives Matter-Chicago  
 Black Lives Matter-DC  
 Black Lives Matter-Detroit  
 Black Lives Matter-Hudson Valley  
 Black Lives Matter-Indianapolis  
 Black Lives Matter-Lansing  
 Black Lives Matter-Long Beach  
 Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles  
 Black Lives Matter-Louisville  
 Black Lives Matter-Michigan  
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 Black Lives Matter-Philly  
 Black Lives Matter-San Diego  
 Black Lives Matter-South Bend

