In light of the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of George Floyd, Pearl S. Buck International reaffirms our commitment to the truths and values upon which we were founded as an organization and joins the resounding international condemnation of the death of yet another person of color at the hands of a police officer. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who today are protesting, in many places peacefully, systemic racism and their right to not live—or die—in fear due to the color of their skin. All lives will not matter until black lives matter.

In 1942, Pearl Buck gave a commencement address at Howard University. Though she was speaking to the graduates in the context of the United States entering World War II, nearly 80 years later, her words remain timely and true:

“The peace will be no peace unless it is based upon the principle of human equality. ... Therefore, today I believe that discrimination in our country must go, because until it does, we will not have won the war. We cannot fight for freedom unless we fight for freedom for all.”

Pearl S. Buck devoted her life to causes dedicated to fighting social injustice, racism, and discrimination. As the organization she founded, Pearl S. Buck International continues to be dedicated to ensuring that legacy continues through our mission and work—providing humanitarian aid to children facing discrimination, teaching Pearl Buck’s history of fighting for civil rights and social justice through tours of her National Historic Landmark home in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and educating young people,
students, business leaders, and organizations locally on how to bridge cultures.

Teaching about, raising awareness of, and working toward social justice and racial equality remain at the forefront of Pearl S. Buck International’s mission as we strive to follow in Pearl Buck’s footsteps of taking action to make the world, in her words, a “good and peaceful place”—for everyone.

Sincerely,

Anna Katz
President & CEO
Pearl S. Buck International