



America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM) builds public awareness of the harmful legacies of slavery in America and promotes racial repair, reconciliation, and healing.

America's Black Holocaust Museum stands with the families of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and all of those whose loved ones have been violently taken from them. The unrelenting outrage, pain, and sadness that so many of us from around the world are feeling in this moment has been long held by the black community. From centuries of chattel slavery to generations of race-based terror and lynching, through the countless racially motivated killings, this history persists today.

Despite a global pandemic, people of all ethnic groups, races, ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds gather in solidarity to bear witness and, to once and for all, denounce these horrific acts. As we continue the much-needed vigilance to stay safely apart, this breach of our collective humanity has brought us together.

There have been detailed discussions regarding how preexisting health conditions make certain populations more vulnerable to viral outbreaks and how it disproportionately affects people of color. We must also focus our collective attention on the longstanding issues of discrimination, wealth inequality and the unjust disparities in employment, healthcare, housing and education.

So, now the question is, what do we do in the face of these glaring inequities? In these extremely challenging times, we look to the words of our founder, Dr. James Cameron:

"In 1930 I became sick with hatred. Hatred is a disease that eats into the core of the whole body and destroys it from within. But if you have love in your heart, you can blossom as the sun shines every day."

Dr. Cameron, one of the only known survivors of a lynching in American history, was only 16 years old in 1930 when his life was nearly taken. He then spent the rest of his 92 years sharing his story and those of African Americans from pre-captivity to the present day. As we preserve the legacy of our founder, ABHM is poised to continue to serve as an educator about these incredibly painful and difficult issues and convenor of the conversations that we must have to resolve them.

Let this be the moment when we choose unity over division, love over hate, where mutual respect, understanding and compassion guide our priorities and govern our decision-making. We are at a crossroads and it is up to all of us to decide which way we go, to decide who we become.

Dr. Robert "Bert" Davis
President & CEO
America's Black Holocaust Museum
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