On behalf of the entire Girls Group organization, we want to share our sadness, frustration, disappointment, anger, confusion and hope related to the murder of George Floyd.

We are sad that George Floyd was brutally murdered for no reason, and that this is not an isolated incident in our country. We are sad that our joint equality as members of our country and society is not honored and respected, day in and day out.

We are frustrated that minority voices and lives are not consistently heard in our country. None of us are “better” than others, and none of us should have to work so hard to prove our obvious worth. We all love, care, give, hope, learn, grow, and pray in our own equally valid ways.

We are disappointed that this reality of disenfranchisement continues year after year, generation after generation. We are disappointed that some police and some governmental leaders are not able to open their hearts and minds to the reality of our joint humanity.

We are angry that people of color are being murdered, based on the color of their skin. We are angry that young people of color are taught since they are very young, to fear the police and people who judge them based on their skin color. We are angry about the current and historical trauma that daily influences the lives of people of color.

We are confused about why we can’t come together as a country, and acknowledge our joint humanity. Why generations of mistreatment of people of color continues as the norm, rather than as an impetus for us to open our eyes and hearts, and take meaningful action for us to come together.

The mission of Girls Group is to empower young women to achieve emotional and economic self-sufficiency, by ensuring they graduate from high school and begin their college and career journeys.

The young women served by Girls Group and their families, are intelligent, loving, determined, and wise. They should not be afraid to own their voice, and they should not be scared about the safety of themselves and everyone they love.

We find hope in the mostly peaceful protests, and in the desire of many people around this country to end systemic racism and brutal acts by the police. We find hope in the people who are rethinking our police system, our educational system, our prison systems, and our own daily interactions. We hope that long-term change and transformation is created during the chaos and pain of our current (and past) trauma and experiences.

We remain committed to serving Girls Group participants, their families, and our community.