

## **Ohio Co-Conspirators in Ending Oppression A Year in Review**

This month marks [1 year](#) since the first detected case of the SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19 virus in Ohio, 1 year since many of our organizations became fully remote, and one year since [Breonna Taylor](#) was murdered. This is also a time of disturbingly heightened [anti-Asian violence](#), [xenophobic attacks](#), and the start of [Derek Chauvin's trial](#) for the murder of [George Floyd](#). A lot has happened in this year and the reverberations are still being felt.

Within the last year, [over half a million Americans died](#) due to a preventable virus, many of them from [populations we push to the margins](#) such as the elderly and myriad Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) populations. This year shone a bright, pulsing light on the disparities and oppressions alive in our society. Many of us marched, posted, and donated in the summer when the indignities sparked by the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Oluwatoyin Salau spilled over. But have we continued to act on these indignities? Have we continued to incorporate anti-racism and anti-oppression in our everyday lives and for those names we don't know? Has our anti-racism included Asian, American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities?

Ohio's Co-Conspirators in Ending Oppression (CIEO) implore our fellow white people in the anti-violence field to continue working to break down these systems of oppression. At home in conversations with our family members, at work to change our inequitable hiring processes and cultures of micro and macroaggressions, in our communities by supporting grassroots organizers calls to show-up as active bystanders, as student calls to remove School Resource Officers or Zero-Tolerance policies, and as legislators promote a more equitable policies in Ohio.

Although this year brought a lot of grief, reckoning, and lessons learned, there are glimmers of hope. Breonna Taylor's partner is officially free from any criminal charges from that night. Ohio legislators have introduced the [CROWN Act](#) and [joint resolutions](#) to declaring Racism a public health crisis. CIEO has seen great turnout at our monthly [Putting Conversations into Practice series](#). But we cannot let these glimmers of hope burn out. We must continue to push further, reject the status quo, and [use our voices](#) to name injustices and act to center material safety for BIPOC communities.

**3/25/21**