

5 JUNE 2020

## Statement from the Secretary General



On behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce, I want to express my support for the peaceful demonstrations taking place in cities across the United States and the world in response to the recent act of violence committed against a man who deserved to live.

The anger, frustration and sense of injustice being expressed have sadly become a recurrent theme—to the exasperation of all who universally condemn racism and discrimination.

In this difficult time, it is important that we openly acknowledge that these elements persist to this day in too many parts of the world.

Within our global community, many will have experienced some form of discrimination first hand. Others may find it difficult to fully comprehend just how deeply our colleagues and fellow human beings may be affected by it.

But what shines bright at this dark moment is the heartfelt unity of millions the world over in decrying such despicable acts against members of the Black community and others.

Racism and discrimination may exist everywhere, but we will not accept them anywhere.

At ICC, we know intuitively and empirically that our organisation and the millions of companies we represent are strengthened by diversity in all its forms. In recent years, business has made great strides in advocating and adopting inclusive practices in everything from hiring and promotion to selecting service providers.

The demonstrations we are witnessing tell us that our work is far from done, and business leaders have an important responsibility to continue to press the message of inclusion and fairness in words and in actions.

For its part, ICC will not waver in its commitment to upholding these core principles.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.W.H. Denton'.

**John W.H. Denton AO**  
Secretary General  
International Chamber of Commerce