

## A Worldwide Reckoning

On May 25, 2020, the world saw the breath of life choked out of George Floyd, a 46 year-old Black man. He was murdered by a sworn officer to uphold the law. Thanks to a courageous teenage girl named Darnella Frazier, the world saw it happen.<sup>1</sup> She recorded the event on her cellphone. Frazier's footage aired on network news and sparked a wave of protests around the world.

In America, white people, Black people, Brown people, yellow people, and Rainbow people protested in major cities in all 50 states. Congress was prompted to introduce and pass a policing reform bill.

Floyd's barbaric 21st century lynching drove people of good conscience around the world to "seek justice and correct oppression," (Isaiah 1:17). There were Black Lives Matter protests in:

- More than 40 cities around the world, including
  - Seoul, Korea
  - Brisbane, Australia
  - Auckland, New Zealand
  - Edinburgh, Scotland
  - Istanbul, Turkey
  - Stockholm, Sweden
  - Tokyo, Japan
  - 9 major cities in Germany -Berlin organizers expected 1,500 people. They got 15,000!
  
- Countries on the African continent
  - Kenya
  - Ghana
  - South Africa

Seventeen-year-old Darnella documented Floyd's 21st century lynching the way my shero Ida B. Wells reported lynchings in the 19th century. Because of this young, gifted and Black girl's bravery, the world experienced a fresh wind of the spirit of liberty, freedom and justice that was alive and active during the mid1950s to the mid1960s, when several African and Caribbean countries were gaining their independence from colonizers while Black Americans were making strides toward civil rights.

With the concerted effort to roll back the strides made by advocates for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I), we need more sweeping change. The church should be at the forefront, on the frontline, fanning the flames of freedom. As Ella Baker sings, "We who believe in freedom cannot rest!"

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1 <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/darnella-frazier-2003/>