The Origins of #BlackLivesMatter

#BlackLivesMatter was organized as a call to action by Alicia Garza, Patrice Cullors, and Opal Tometi in response to the killing of Trayvon Martin to "move the hashtag from social media into the streets". After a successful Black Lives Matter ride, led and designed by Patrisse Cullors and Darnell L. Moore in response to the killing of Mike Brown, the movement gained momentum, hosting national conference calls focused on issues of critical importance to Black liberation and connecting people across the country to address injustice while celebrating and humanizing Black lives.

(Alicia Garza)

"A Movement Co-Opted"

#AllLivesMatter, #BrownLivesMatter, #WomensLivesMatter

"When we deploy "All Lives Matter" as to correct an intervention specifically created to address anti-Blackness, we lose the ways in which the state has built a program of genocide and repression mostly on the backs of Black people by reproducing a tired trope that we are all the same. We perpetuate a level of White supremacist domination rather than acknowledging that non-Black oppressed people in this country are both impacted by racism and domination, and simultaneously BENEFIT from anti-Black racism.

(Alicia Garza)

"But I believe all lives DO matter, that's why I'm here..."

"#BlackLivesMatter doesn't mean your life isn't important–it means that Black lives are important to your liberation. Given the disproportionate impact state violence has on Black lives, we understand that when Black people get free, the benefits will be transformative for society as a whole. When we are able to end hyper-criminalization and sexualization of Black people every single person in this world has a better shot at getting and staying free. This is why we call on Black people and our allies to take up the call that Black lives matter.

Alicia Garza

If I identify as white or have light-skinned privilege, how can I show up in a way that honors this movement?

Please DON'T:

Appropriate Black peoples' experiences:

"Hands Up Don't Shoot"

die-ins

"I (or We) Can't Breathe"

De-center or dismiss Black peoples' experiences:

"Whose Streets? Our Streets!"

"All Lives Matter"

"This is what democracy looks like"

Please DO:

support the #BlackLivesMatter movement:

#BlackLivesMatter
#Every28hours
#JusticeForMikeBrown
JusticeForUsAll (Or Eric Garner)

ask white people taking up space on the Bullhorn to pass it to a Black person.

Invite white people to step back, change the chant, and hold the space for POC voices/actions

Consider using #WhiteSilenceIsViolence with other white people to ground your commitment to action, question their apathy, or draw them into conversation.

How can I be accountable?

Ask movement organizers how you can be supportive

Maintain Blackness at the center of this movement

Use tactical discipline to not distract from the Black led strategies of the activities you engage in

Commit to the long haul, and organize for it

Don't disengage

Organize locally and find out how to support local campaigns to end mass incarceration and police brutality

www.conspiredforchange.org

As we participate in the movement to confront systemic violence against Black bodies, some questions to think through:

Where did the movement come from?

How can we respect those legacies?

What power dynamics might exist within the communities that we are working to support?

Whose voices are amplified within protest spaces?

Whose bodies are visible?

Whose bodies are safe(r)?

How can we support this work outside of protest spaces?

Hey, white folks in the streets...

enraged by police brutality?

impassioned by #BlackLivesMatter?

Your presence here is valued.

In this zine we invite you to consider how to show up in solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

We encourage you to enter this discussion with an open mind...