

#BLM

Summary: Black Lives Matter was founded by three Black female organizers: Patrisse Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi in 2013. BLM began as a social media hashtag after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin in 2012.

Impact: The Black Lives Matter movement has impacted thousands of Americans across the U.S. The growth of this organization has brought well-needed attention to serious racial issues within this nation.

Diving Deeper: Black people have faced racial injustice for centuries. It is not only happening to young Black men, but it also happening to young Black women and children.

- **Example 1:** The death of Trayvon Martin. Martin was killed by George Zimmerman for looking “suspicious” as he was walking home from the store. He was 17 years old.
- **Example 2:** The death of Michael Brown, Jr. On August 9, 2014, Michael Brown and a friend were walking down the middle of Canfield Drive in Ferguson, Missouri when police officer, Darren Wilson, told them to use the sidewalk. Wilson fired his gun and shot Brown 6 times, all in the front of Brown’s body. Brown was unarmed. He was 18 years old.
- **Example 3:** The murder of George Floyd. On May 25, 2020, 46-year-old George Floyd was killed by officer Derek Chauvin, who knelt on his neck for a reported 8 minutes and 46 seconds. Floyd repeatedly told the officer that he could not breathe.

#JusticeforBreonnaTaylor: On March 13, 2020, 26-year-old Breonna Taylor was gunned down in her Louisville, Kentucky apartment while she was sleeping. Since her death, protests arose around the nation and all over the world, demanding justice for Breonna. As of January 2021, no officers have been charged for her murder.