



# Peace Operations Training Institute

*Study peace and humanitarian relief any place, any time*

## **Statement from the Staff of the Peace Operations Training Institute**

As we continue to witness the human suffering caused by racial and social inequalities in so many spaces, we must recall that we cannot appreciate the significance of the protest movement in the United States and elsewhere if we fail to frame it globally. This truth is fundamental for those of us who have chosen our vocations with a desire to address and solve some of the world's most intractable problems. As many other organizations have critically stated: The international community – at both the institutional and individual levels – bears an affirmative and ongoing responsibility to counter all forms of inequality.

As an institute committed to securing a more peaceful world by providing training to those who serve on peacekeeping missions supporting the resolution of armed conflict, we cannot ignore the link between civil unrest and the failure of state and other institutions to safeguard universal rights around the world. We wholeheartedly condemn systemic racial injustice within and beyond US borders. We recognize that the ongoing training of security sector personnel is paramount in eliminating the injustices and inequalities that disproportionately cause the loss of life and liberty in communities of colour within any nation.

It is heartening to see so many organizations taking stock of their past and present efforts in countering inequality, and we at the Peace Operations Training Institute agree that the moment to assess and extend these capacities is now. For our part, the Institute is committed to producing courses reflective of the vast range of voices comprising our global student body. This process entails more actively identifying and partnering with individuals and organizations that share our values of peaceful conflict resolution and the protection of life. Here at POTI we will soon offer our newly updated course *Peacekeeping and International Conflict Resolution* free of charge to all on the basis that it contains essential training on conflict resolution and the protection of human rights. This is not a comprehensive list of action items, but an acknowledgement that the process of combatting racism on a large scale is ongoing; there are no quick fixes to years of systemic inequalities.

The earnest pursuit of justice and equality demands that we tirelessly reflect on our actions and inactions. The Institute is therefore committed to an ongoing examination of all that we do — our intentions, our practices, and our values as an organization — as a modest step toward a more just world.