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NYSHRA STATEMENT ON THE CONVICTION OF DEREK CHAUVIN IN THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

The murder of George Perry Floyd at the hands of police sparked new life to a long-fought movement of reform and accountability. We realize that this nation is at an inflection point to finally come to terms with a 400-year-old legacy of generational enslavement and structural racism.

The New York State Harm Reduction Association does not stand on the sidelines in this season of commitment. While we realize that yesterday provided a flicker of hope, we must continually call out injustice wherever it is to be found. As a harm reduction collective, NYSHRA will continue to interrogate the institutional and community harms experienced by people of color and fight for their dismantling as squarely within our mission.

It took 9 minutes and 49 seconds to extinguish George's life, but NYSHRA embraces the Native American philosophy that "The individual, family, and community are not separate – they are one. To injure one is to injure all: To heal one is to heal all..." We celebrate this moment of accountability but must remain steadfast in combatting white supremacy in all its forms.

Let us continue to say George Floyd's name and carry on the fight for justice.

***About NYSHRA**—The mission of NYSHRA is to introduce and promote Harm Reduction throughout all of New York State as a scientifically based treatment appropriate for substance use disorder, as well as a lifestyle approach to people who use substances. NYSHRA fulfills this mission on behalf of clinical and other providers, and the consumers they serve, through public policy and advocacy, public awareness, clinical education, and research dissemination.*