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Statement from VALOR on the death of Tyre Nichols and the Excessive Use of State Violence

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SACRAMENTO, CA – As our nation grapples with the murder of Mr. Tyre Nichols, we must look at what we’ve done to allow individuals, systems, and entities to exercise power and control over others, and how our lack of action has perpetuated further harm. In the anti-sexual violence field, we know that abuses of power and control are key components in harming others and we also know this is true for state violence.

For far too long, the anti-sexual violence movement relied on the overuse of criminalization to address a public health crisis. VALOR stands firmly behind the belief that criminalization will not end sexual violence, or any type of violence. Preventing and addressing power imbalances, systems of control, and institutions that allow violence to occur will end sexual violence.

In 2020, VALOR, then CALCASA, released a [statement](#) aligning in solidarity with racial justice advocates and joined other state coalitions in the [Moment of Truth letter](#), acknowledging that we have not done our part. At times our organizations were complacent, and even harmful. Our movement needs to continue to dismantle the same systems that have caused harm for decades, and reckon with the fact that we have not done enough over the last few years.

We have a duty to create a violence free world. Free from sexual harm, free from state violence, police brutality, systemic harm, racial inequity – free from the oppressions that have existed for far too long. We aspire to create a world where we assert the dignity of all people.

VALOR grieves for the traumatic impact this will have on Mr. Nichols’ family and friends, the community of survivors this will shake, and the national trauma this has caused.