During times of great crisis, the systems in America that fail Black people on a normal day become even less reliable and the COVID-19 pandemic is no exception. From mutual aid efforts to disaster relief, Black communities know what’s best for Black people. Where we can, we are providing for one another by developing mutual aid networks, organizing, and creating virtual spaces for connection and joy. Where we don’t have enough or where the systems meant to meet the needs of the people fail, we’re demanding more from our elected officials.

As Black leaders—all of us—we are demanding and fighting for what needs to be done right now to stop the spread and lasting harm of COVID-19 — such as a just health care system and affordable housing. At the same time, we are demanding a recovery that benefits everyday people, not big corporations. We know that historically, from the Great Depression to Hurricane Katrina, disaster response has excluded and criminalized our people. The response to this crisis must be different. We demand not only immediate relief, but a commitment to long term recovery and the structural changes needed to meet the needs of all our people.

This is a list of what Black people need in these times.
This is a list of demands to the state.
This is an invitation to ALL Black people, and other people who share our vision, to join in the fight to assert our rights and protect our communities.
This list is a continuation of our Vision for Black Lives Platform and our vision for our communities’ health, justice, freedom, and power.
These ideas are not new but they are more urgent than they have ever been.

Therefore, all of these demands apply to ALL people, including our people who are undocumented, incarcerated, and/or disabled.

- We believe all Black women and girls are inherently valuable.
- We believe all Black queer, trans, and intersex (or LGBTQI) people are inherently valuable.
- We believe all Black men and boys are inherently valuable.
- We believe all Black disabled people are inherently valuable.
- We believe all Black immigrants and refugees are inherently valuable.
- We believe all people impacted by the prison, jails, and punishment systems are inherently valuable.
- We believe, you, me, we, that all Black lives are inherently valuable.