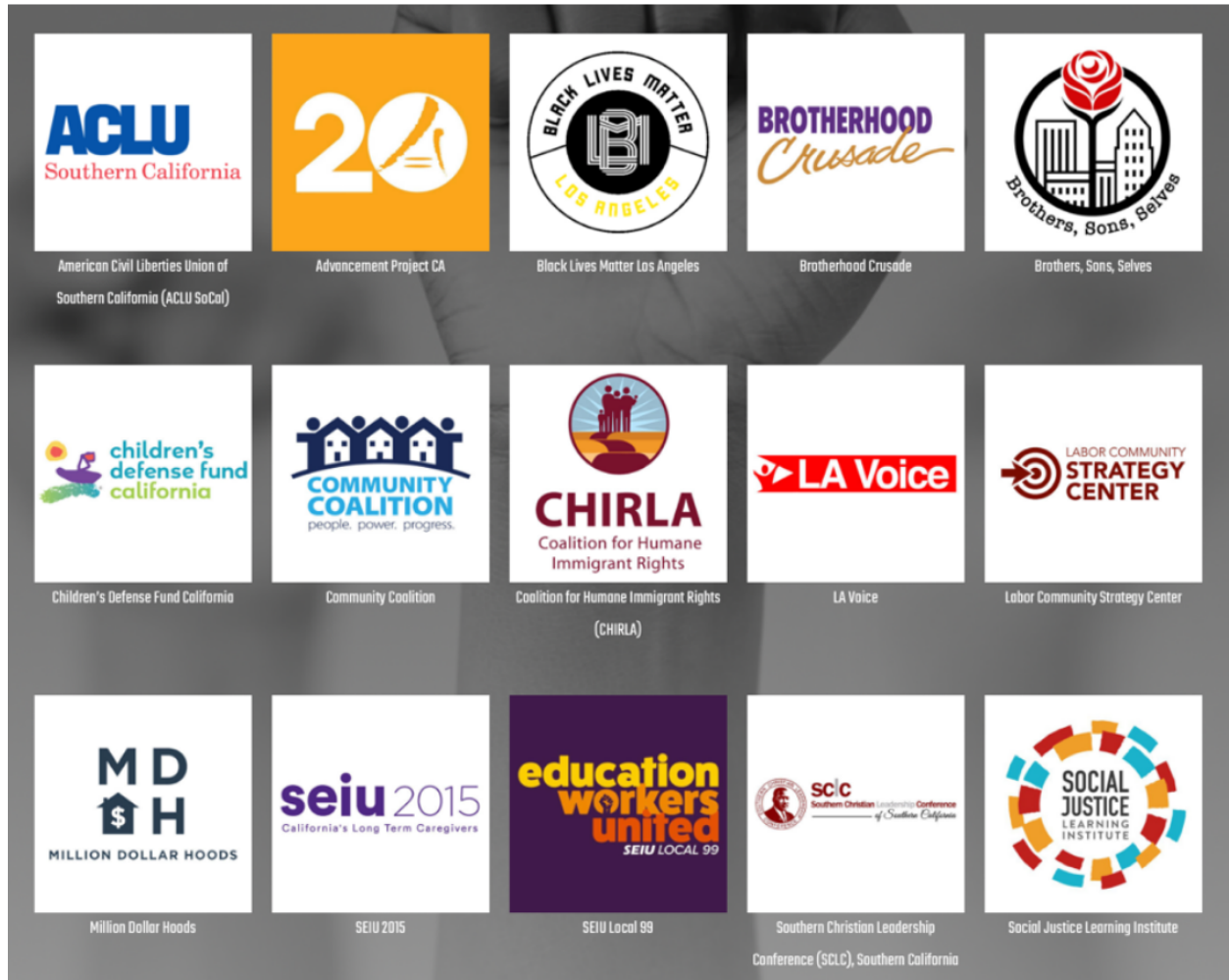


PUSH LA

Reimagine Protect and Serve



To start this statement, the PUSH LA “Reimagine Protect & Serve” coalition has the following observations and demands:

1. **Saturday’s protest of thousands was completely peaceful until the LAPD created a standoff situation, and started swinging batons and firing rubber bullets at unarmed peaceful protestors.** Violence begets violence and it was clear who provoked the chaos. It wasn’t until the peaceful protest approached Beverly Hills and the Westside when the LAPD stepped in, exposing once again their real priorities of protecting white property over Black lives.

2. **Remove the National Guard from the City of LA.** It's clear that additional law enforcement will only further violence against people of color.

3. **Defund the LAPD. We demand that the City adopts a [People's Budget](#) that allots care and services to Black communities during a global pandemic and the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Resources create public safety.** 54% of the City's general fund goes to the LAPD, at a time when crime has plummeted and Black communities, especially, are in dire need of essential services and resources. Now, they're planning an additional \$123 million to the police while health resources, housing assistance, and proven successful community safety initiatives are cut. **The more effective way to bring peace is by investing in Black communities impacted by centuries of financial looting, state sanctioned poverty and police violence, unemployment, high rent, and the countless tragic, heartbreaking murders of our bodies.**

As we analyze this weekend, the real story is the underlying root causes that have led us to these cries of anguish and outrage. **For centuries, we Black folks have been suffocated under racial oppression and the lie of Black inferiority and white superiority.** Our souls, our bodies, and our minds have been put under unendurable amounts of duress. **Our communities have been looted financially and our people killed in countless heartbreaking incidents by state sanctioned police violence.** What shall you have us do when we're put through stressors far past our ability to cope? Every city and state should be announcing bold and structural change. They need to listen to what's happening on the ground. It's rumbling and breaking apart, unearthing hundreds of years of oppression. There's no appropriate moderate approach during the worst inequality in American history and the continued murder of Black lives.