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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION POSTPONES WEBINAR IN LIGHT OF PROTESTS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Newark, Del. (May 31, 2020) — The International Literacy Association (ILA) will postpone tonight's scheduled webinar amidst nationwide protests over the May 25 death of George Floyd.

The webinar, "Making the Case for Reading Joy," was to be led by Donalyn Miller. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

Floyd, a black man from Minneapolis, MN, was killed at the hands of Dereck Chauvin, a white police officer who had Floyd's neck pinned under his knee. Video of the incident, captured by a bystander, showed Floyd pleading for his life, saying repeatedly, "I can't breathe."

Violent protests erupted across the United States, sparking solidarity protests all over the world.

"What happened to Mr. Floyd is a tragedy," said ILA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post. "Now is not the time to discuss the joy we can find in books, but instead to reflect on how we can promote positive change."

"Alongside ILA, I stand in support of the many school communities who are suffering right now and the need to share resources that directly address urgent needs," says Miller. "Our children cannot experience reading joy without equitable literacy opportunities."

ILA is in the process of rescheduling the event and will announce the new date and time next week.

"We know that reading has the power to heal," Post said. "But there's no way to begin healing when the trauma is this fresh."

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers and experts across 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated. ILA's Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017 provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students and inform policymakers. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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