

My name is Lex Johnston, I am a legal worker member of the Vermont Chapter and a member of the Queer Caucus. This is my statement in support of the 2020 Proposed Resolution, "Resolution Supporting the Abolition of Policing," submitted by the NLG Anti-Racism Committee.

The NLG's mission is to "use law for the people...by valuing human rights and ecosystems over property interest". Police do the exact opposite. The institution of policing is at its very core a racist mechanism originally created to violently oppress Black and indigenous people. Police exist to protect property at the expense of human rights; this core function is violent regardless of how many body cameras cops wear. Policing was designed and will continue to use state resources to forcibly and violently control its people.

This resolution is a call to end our own complicity in a system in which we choose prisons and policing instead of communication, growth, and healing. It is recognition that we are enabling this violence unless we explicitly choose to speak out against it, acknowledging that we will not participate in this system, even within ourselves.