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The recent deaths of Black citizens at the hands of police are horrific and intolerable. Racism plagues our institutions and cannot be ignored. The current debate about the role of police and the criminal justice system is necessary and will hopefully spark reforms to address long-standing injustice.

Mathematics and computation are powerful tools to address these problems and ICERM will take an active role in promoting their use. Rigorous and thoughtful analysis of data and systems - free of undue influence from corporations, governments, and other vested interests - is essential to ensure their fairness and integrity. Too often, mathematics, algorithms, and technology are used to apply a veneer of objectivity to biased and sloppy procedures. ICERM and the mathematical sciences community must be vigilant about this danger.

ICERM seeks proposals from the community for scientific programs addressing these problems: How do we measure bias in algorithms and training data? What mathematical and statistical tools are needed to quantify bias or certify fairness? Please contact me with any ideas or suggestions.

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