

Thank you so much to all of you for this incredible, incredible honor.

I am moved that Black Lives Matter, our movement, that started with three women over social media in a response to the killing and murder of Trayvon Martin has now had a world wide impact. It's glaringly obvious to me that anti-Black racism doesn't just exist in the United States.

When we started Black Lives Matter and when I put a hashtag in front of Black Lives Matter- we understood, deeply, that our movement was a movement for every single Black person and/or allies around the globe. We have spent the last almost 8 years challenging the U.S. government. From the Obama administration, the four years of the Donald Trump administration, and now with this new administration we will continue to push for racial equity. We will continue to push for a world where Black people are actually free.

The work of Black Lives Matter really is about joining together. It really is about humanizing people who have been dehumanized for centuries. This year, I'm excited, because we did in fact vote out a fascist.

But we still have a long way to go. And so, do not think that Black Lives Matter has finished our work. We have not. We understand that we are part of a long, long legacy of human rights workers, civil rights workers, Black power workers who have put their bodies on the line so that I can do the work that I am doing today. I will continue to do that work and I will teach my 5 year old about this work. My hope, my prayer, and my desire is that one day our children will be able to be free. They will be able to be free to walk down our streets without worrying about police terror. They will be able to be free to walk down our streets without worrying about the prison industrial complex. They will have access to healthy food, access to adequate public education, access to adequate housing. That's the work that Black Lives Matter is doing. Our work was never about highlighting Black death. Our work was always about Black life. We believe Black people deserve not just to survive, but to thrive.

Thank you once again for honoring us with this beautiful, beautiful experience, prize, and moment. It is just a reminder that our work resonates everywhere. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart.