

## Important Vocab for the Editorial

1. conviction (noun) – pronouncement of guilt, sentence, judgement.
2. police reform (noun) – it aims to transform the values, culture, policies and practices of police organizations so that police can perform their duties with respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law.
3. build bridges (phrase) – encourage/support the friendly relationship between different groups.
4. guilty (adjective) – culpable, at fault, blameworthy, accountable/responsible for misconduct.
5. unarmed (adjective) – defenceless, without arms/weapons, weaponless, open to attack.
6. ignite (verb) – kindle, trigger, instigate, provoke.
7. storm (noun) – outburst, outbreak, eruption, outpouring, surge.
8. brutality (noun) – cruelty, barbarity, inhumanity.
9. outpouring (noun) – outburst, eruption, outflowing, cascade, a lot of something happening at the same time.
10. injustice (noun) – lack of justice, unfairness, misdeed, unjust/unfair act.
11. convict (verb) – declare guilty, find guilty, sentence.
12. first-degree murder (noun) – a premeditated, intentional killing; felony murder.
13. second-degree murder (noun) – an unplanned, intentional killing; A death caused by a reckless disregard for human life.
14. third-degree murder (noun) – an unplanned, unintentional killing that is not part of another felony (Involuntary-you fall and push someone off a ledge by accident & Voluntary-you push/punch someone and unintentionally kill them).
15. manslaughter (noun) – killing, murder.
16. felony (noun) – grave, most serious, unethical, immoral (crime).
17. encounter (noun) – violent incident/event.
18. last (verb) – continue, go on, carry on, proceed.
19. pin (verb) – hold, restrain, press.
20. clarion call (noun) – a strong request/demand/appeal for something (action) to be done.
21. erstwhile (adjective) – old, previous, former, then.
22. fan (verb) – intensify, increase, exacerbate.

23. **outrage** (noun) – fury, anger, rage, disapproval, wrath, resentment.
24. **radical left** (noun) – it refers collectively to people who hold extreme left-wing political views.
25. **send in** (phrasal verb) – to order military forces/troops to deal with a crisis/problem.
26. **National Guard** (noun) – (in the US) the unique military force with the dual (state & federal) job; Each state, Washington DC and US territories have a national guard, and serve a dual state and federal mission.
27. **frontrunner** (noun) – expected winner, probable winner.
28. **contrarily** (adverb) – in a conflicting manner.
29. **fan the flames** (phrase) – increase feelings/emotions.
30. **seek** (verb) – try, attempt, aim.
31. **plague** (verb) – harass, bedevil, persecute, trouble.
32. **result in** (phrasal verb) – cause, bring on, bring about, call forth, give rise to.
33. **laden** with (adjective) – loaded, burdened, oppressed.
34. **pitfall** (noun) – danger, risk, problem.
35. **render** (verb) – make, cause to be, cause to become.
36. **at hand** (phrase) – readily available, handy, within reach; nearby, coming soon, about to happen.
37. **formidable** (adjective) – difficult, taxing, demanding, challenging.
38. **in the wake of** (phrase) – as a result of, in the aftermath of, as a consequence of.
39. **fell** (verb) – kill.
40. **to name but a few** (phrase) – to give only a few examples, even though there are a lot of examples available.
41. **drop** (verb) – abandon, discontinue, cancel, give up, discard.
42. **Plea bargain** (noun) – plea bargaining refers to a person charged with a criminal offence negotiating with the prosecution for a lesser punishment than what is provided in law by pleading guilty to a less serious offence. It is common in the United States, and has been a successful method of avoiding protracted and complicated trials.
43. **civil settlement** (noun) – In Civil Law, Settlement refers to the legal agreement adopted by opposing parties before or during court proceedings.
44. **people of colour** (noun) – it is primarily used in the United States to describe people who are not considered white.
45. **of the sort** (phrase) – something of the type just mentioned.
46. **bring about** (phrasal verb) – cause, create, produce.

47. **measure** (noun) – action, step, procedure.
48. **empathy** (noun) – affection, fellow feeling, compassion, neighbourliness.
49. **nuance** (noun) – fine distinction, subtle difference/subtlety/nicety, subtle variation.
50. **policing** (noun) – the enforcement of rules/regulations; overseeing, monitoring, inspection.
51. **ambitious** (adjective) – formidable, challenging, demanding.
52. **chokehold** (noun) – an act of putting one’s hands around someone’s neck tightly to restrict/control him.
53. **immunity** (noun) – protection, impunity, exemption from something.
54. **accountability** (noun) – responsibility, liability, answerability.
55. **steep climb** (noun) – (very) difficult job.
56. **unlikely** (adjective) – doubtful, implausible, improbable.
57. **eschew** (verb) – reject, avoid, deny, abstain from, refrain from.
58. **allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, indictment.
59. **defund** (verb) – reallocate or redirect funding away from.

## Towards racial justice: On George Floyd case verdict

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### Conviction in the George Floyd case and the police reform bill should help build bridges.

A U.S. judge found Derek Chauvin, a Minneapolis police officer, **guilty of murdering an unarmed African-American man, George Floyd**, an incident last May that ignited a nationwide storm of protest against police brutality and a worldwide outpouring of anger at America’s racial injustice. Mr. Chauvin has been **convicted of second-degree and third-degree murder, and manslaughter** — all three for an encounter that lasted around nine minutes, during which he pinned Mr. Floyd’s neck to the roadside with his knee until he stopped breathing. **Mr. Floyd’s final words, “I can’t breathe”**, became the clarion call of a massive wave of street protests

across the U.S. At the time, erstwhile President Donald Trump fanned outrage when he described the protests a result of the “radical left” and threatened to send in the National Guard. President Joe Biden, at the time a presidential race frontrunner, contrarily went to Houston to meet with Mr. Floyd’s relatives. He said at the time that he would not “fan the flames of hate”, but instead, “seek to heal the racial wounds that have long plagued this country”. A few months ahead of one of the most remarkable presidential elections in recent history, his words lent hope to many Americans that should he win, there might be a real possibility for reform in law enforcement and criminal justice that could result in less violence against racial minorities.

Yet, it is clear that the road towards achieving a more perfect union is laden with pitfalls that render the task at hand formidable. Literally minutes before the verdict in the Chauvin trial, a teenage girl in Columbus, Ohio, was killed by the police. Her death comes in the wake of others felled in police encounters, including [Eric Garner](#), [Michael Brown](#) and [Tamir Rice](#) in 2014, and [Breonna Taylor](#) in 2020, to name but a few. In most such cases, charges have been rare, and convictions rarer still. Analysis of these cases suggested that most often charges were dropped, or plea bargains and civil settlements agreed. It is only a minority of these instances of what many consider police brutality against people of colour that result in convictions at trial. Four years under Mr. Trump did little to build, across communities, bridges of the sort necessary to bring about a greater measure of empathy and nuance in policing. Now, Mr. Biden’s ambitious police reform bill, which bans chokeholds, offers qualified immunity from lawsuits for law enforcement and creates national standards for policing towards greater accountability, has cleared the House and faces a steep climb at the Senate, where analysts say it is unlikely to pass without the support of at least some Republicans. If some of these Republicans can eschew unproven allegations about Democrats seeking to “defund the police” that will be a good start.