



## The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

A union of professionals helping our children to learn, grow  
and succeed in the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

For Immediate Release

### PFT400 calls for Federal Civil Rights Charges to be Brought Against George Zimmerman

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(Pittsburgh) – The Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT400) is officially calling on the federal Department of Justice to bring civil rights charges against George Zimmerman for the killing of Trayvon Martin. PFT400 is also calling for an end to racial profiling and for the repeal of all so called ‘Stand Your Ground’ laws.

In a resolution passed unanimously by the executive board of PFT400, the organization calls the acquittal of George Zimmerman, “a manifestation of racial bias,” that “violated Trayvon Martin’s fundamental civil right to life.”

“This is a matter of justice, not just for Trayvon Martin and his family, but for black Americans and for our country,” said William Hileman, Vice President of PFT400 and author of the resolution. “How can we possibly expect to bridge the economic gap and the racial achievement gap in our country when we institutionalize violence with laws like ‘Stand Your Ground’ and tolerate discrimination such was what we saw with the George Zimmerman verdict.”

Sixty percent of the students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools are African American and could be vulnerable to the exact same thing that happened to Trayvon Martin. PFT400 believes the adults in our school district need to be part of the effort to make this city safe for the children of Pittsburgh.

PFT400 is a union of professionals working to help our children learn, grow, and succeed in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Founded in 1935, PFT400 has been a leader in educational innovation and change in our public schools.

The full text of the resolution can be found at [pft400.org/resolutions](http://pft400.org/resolutions).

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