



## INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

### Agile Government - A New Partnership

ISS has joined with the US National Academy of Public Administration, the IBM Center for the Business of Government, and other organizations to identify ways to improve collaboration, efficiency, and effectiveness in the public sector in these challenging times. Our first contribution, "Toward a More Agile World Bank," focuses on one international institution's effort to incorporate Agile principles from the tech sector into its work processes. This short case is designed to support discussion and the rapid dissemination of ideas. Like the others in the series, it rests on fewer interviews than we normally conduct and does not necessarily represent all points of view.

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*Agile Government Center*

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### Taking a Knee

As Robert Kennedy once said: "For there is another kind of violence, slower but just as deadly and destructive as the shot or the bomb in the night. This is the violence of institutions; indifference and inaction and slow decay. This is the violence that afflicts the poor, that poisons relations between men because their skin has different colors. This is a slow destruction of a child by hunger, and schools without books and homes without heat in the winter."

With the death of George Floyd, the road to U.S. police reform seems longer than ever. Here in the US we continue to witness ethnic profiling, unprovoked violence against citizens, and murder at the hands of the very people who are supposed to keep us safe.

But departments can start by acknowledging the legitimacy of the protests racking major cities. ISS applauds officers in Spokane, Washington and parts of New York City who this weekend chose to "take a knee" out of respect and sympathy, as well as those in Flint, Michigan and Atlanta who laid down their riot gear and walked with demonstrators. They remind us that

institutional change begins with personal transformation. We all must recognize that this is a moral issue, not a political or cultural one.

*For coverage of **Genesee County, Michigan Sheriff Christopher Swanson's response** to local protests, see his *PBS Newshour* interview on June 1, 2020.*

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