



June 12, 2020

Dear Texas Tech University Community,

The Student Intersectional Leadership Council stands in solidarity with the Black community to denounce the senseless murders of Ahmaud Aubrey (Georgia), Breonna Taylor (Kentucky), George Floyd (Minnesota), and Tony McDade (Florida) along with the many others who have lost their lives at the hands of police violence and white supremacy.

The abuses and injustices inflicted on Black people for over 400 years must stop, and we are calling for creating systemic change that begins with education and requires action. The centuries of racism which are embedded in the fabric of the United States' social, political, educational, and justice systems require allies, co-conspirators and accomplices in order to break the cycles of oppression within these systems. It is time for everyone in our TTU community to not only denounce racism, but to practice anti-racism.

In the words of Ralph Ellison, ["I am an invisible man. I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids - and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me."](#) It is time for Black people to no longer remain invisible. It is time for Black lives to be seen. It is time for our non-Black allies to be a part of action and change.

We realize many may not know where to start in the fight against racism. We would like to provide the following suggestions on how to get involved, which includes available resources. The quickest way to contribute to the global effort is to donate to organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), NAACP Legal Defense Fund, and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC).

ACLU

<https://www.aclu.org/>

NAACP Legal Defense Fund

<https://www.naacpldf.org/>

SPLC

<https://www.splcenter.org/>

Additionally, you can donate directly to the families affected by brutality, as well as local organizations dedicated to posting bail for those detained and affected by protests.

George Floyd

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd>

Breonna Taylor (petition)

<https://justiceforbreonna.org/>

Ahmaud Arbery

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/i-run-with-maud>

Tony McDade (petition)

<https://www.change.org/p/justice-for-tony-mcdade>

For more ways that you can help, you can visit the following sites:



Black Lives Matter website

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

Ways To Help/Protesting Guide/FAQ

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>

It is your utmost responsibility to educate yourself beyond social media about the ongoing history of racial injustice and socioeconomic inequity against Black people in our country. We encourage you to incite these tough discussions regarding brutality and race within your family, friends, and community.

Some great resources for teaching yourself and others include:

Articles:

- “My Life as an Undocumented Immigrant” by Jose Antonio Vargas, *NYT Mag* (June 22, 2011)
- “Why You Need to Stop Saying ‘All Lives Matter’” by Rachel Elizabeth Cargle, *Harper’s Bazaar* (April 16, 2019)
- “America’s Racial Contract Is Killing Us” by Adam Serwer, *The Atlantic* (May 8, 2020)

Podcasts:

- *Code Switch* by NPR
- *Intersectionality Matters!* by Kimberlé Crenshaw
- *Higher Learning* by Rachel Lindsay and Van Lathan

Books:

- So You Want to Talk About Race, Ijeoma Oluo
- The Bluest Eye, Toni Morrison
- Me and White Supremacy, Layla F. Saad
- Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race, Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum
- Nobody: Casualties of America’s War on the Vulnerable, Ferguson to Flint and Beyond, Marc Lamont Hill

For more resources, please consult the attached list. If you choose to protest, please make sure you are aware of who is organizing the protest and have a safety plan beforehand. We urge you to demonstrate safely and peacefully during these tumultuous times. We are humans, we bleed when wounded, cry when hurt, and feel pain. We matter. Black Lives Matter.

The Student Intersectional Leadership Council

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