



HARVARD GRADUATE COUNCIL

12 GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, ONE HARVARD.

June 4th, 2020

Dear Members of the Harvard Graduate and Professional Student Community,

We write to you in the wake of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, David McAtee, and countless others who have been killed by racist violence. We know this violence is not new. It began with the enslavement of African people five centuries ago, and continues to this day. We at the Harvard Graduate Council unequivocally condemn police brutality. We condemn the state-sanctioned killing of Black people and the willful, ongoing and historic neglect and divestment that has led to the disproportionate rate of Black people dying of heart disease, pregnancy complications, and, most recently, COVID-19.

We stand in solidarity with the movement for Black Lives, as well as our Black graduate students and community members. We support the [statement](#) from Harvard's Black student organizations. In this time of mourning and incredible pain, especially for our Black peers, we want to ensure that every student knows about the resources available from Harvard to support them, which you will find linked below.

Black Lives Matter.

We must all work actively to dismantle systems of oppression. Without action, we are complicit in a racist system that devalues Black life, safety, and wellness. This complicity is exemplified by the three officers who stood by and watched as George Floyd was murdered. However, it is also exemplified by Harvard's own history and struggles with racism. Harvard is an institution that was built on [slavery](#), white supremacy, and elitism. Systemic, institutionalized racism continues to manifest in what and how we are taught, who our professors are, who is admitted, and the experience of our students of color, and particularly our Black students. Harvard has [taken steps](#) to address these harms, but we must all work together to do more. As members of this community, we must understand the history of our own institution and work to create a future Harvard that actively deconstructs racism within our walls as well as outside them. For non-Black students, and especially for White students whose racial privilege demands that they act, being anti-racist means challenging individuals and institutions that are perpetuating racism through their words, policies, and practices, and holding their friends, family, and peers accountable to doing the same. It means taking intentional, daily action to unlearn racist ideas. Start by checking out the resources for allyship and actions for anti-racism at the end of this email.

We support the ongoing peaceful protests. We must use our voices to speak against white supremacy and racism today and everyday. We know many Harvard graduate students have been involved in these protests across the country and around the world. We condemn the violence that we have seen police officers using against these peaceful protestors. We stand with you. [Know your rights](#).

The [Movement for Black Lives](#) is calling on folks to participate in a week of action, which includes calling on your local elected officials and leaders to respect the rights of protestors, divest from police, and invest in Black communities. You can text ActionNOW to 90975 to stay updated and support the movement.

We encourage you to support the many Black-led grassroots organizations and bail funds in Minneapolis, Louisville, and elsewhere around the country. We recommend starting with [Resources and Accountability for Black Lives](#). This document is updated daily and includes active ways to support victims and their families financially, and ways to get involved through advocacy, grassroots organizations and bail funds, and legal support for protestors, among other ways.

Finally, we exist to serve the graduate and professional student community. We know that many of you have also been consistently organizing and fighting against the many ways racism manifests in your Harvard lives and in the Cambridge and Boston communities. We are always here to uplift your concerns about your graduate student experience and advocate on your behalf, particularly as it relates to issues of racial justice. Please contact our Chair of Advocacy at advocacy@hgc.harvard.edu if there are any issues you want to discuss or ways we can support you.

In solidarity,
Harvard Graduate Council Executive Board

Harvard Resources and Advocacy:

- [Harvard Counseling and Mental Health Services](#): M-F 8am-6pm via appointment through patient portal, (617) 495-5711 (after hours 6pm-8am, weekends 24hrs)
 - [Video on CAMHS resources from 4/26/20 Mental Health and Wellness Townhall](#)
 - [Student Mental Health Liaisons](#)
- Harvard's Confidential and Informal Forum for Students and Staff Concerns
 - [Harvard University](#)
 - [Longwood Campus](#) (reopened as of 6/2/20)
- Harvard Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging: dib@harvard.edu, (617) 496-9678
 - [Resources compiled for Grief and Loss 5/29/20](#)
- [Educational Antiracism and Health Suggested Resources \(Countway Library\)](#)
- [Campus Anonymous Reporting Hotline for Racial Discrimination](#): (877) 694-2275
- [Statement and Resources](#) from Black Community Leaders and the Boards of Black Student Orgs
- [#matchmeharvard Petition](#) from The Harvard Coalition for Black Lives
- Abolish the HUPD Petition

Resources for Black Graduate Students:

- [Self-care tips for Black people who are struggling with this very painful week](#)

- [Emotionally restorative self-care for people of color](#)
- [101 ways to take care of yourself when the world feels overwhelming](#)
- [Black healing gathering facilitated by Black therapists and artists](#) (free & online, June 9th, 19th, 23rd, 6 PM EST)
- Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective: [virtual therapist directory](#)
- [Self-care mini-workshops](#)

Resources for Anti-racist Allies:

- General resources
 - Ways to Help: <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>
 - Anti-Racism: <http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES>
 - Letters for Black Lives (with translations): <https://tinyurl.com/y87z9n8n>
 - In Defense of Black Life: <https://linktr.ee/showupnow>
 - [How to be Actively Antiracist](#)
 - [Guide to Allyship](#)
 - [Antiracist Ally Starter Pack](#)
 - [Support Black people](#)
- Organizations doing work surrounding racial equity and justice
 - Movement for Black Lives: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - Black Lives Matter: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - NAACP: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - Antiracist Research & Policy Center: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - Center for Black Equity: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - Color of Change: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - Equal Justice Initiative: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
 - Showing up for Racial Justice: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Books and other sources that dive into racism (past and present), and help facilitate conversations about racial equity and justice
 - [How To Be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
 - [Me and White Supremacy](#) by Layla F. Saad
 - [The 1619 Project](#) by Nikole Hannah-Jones
 - [So You Want to Talk about Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo
 - [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson
 - [Understanding Race & Privilege](#)
 - [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)
 - [Responding to Racism and Racial Trauma in Doctoral Study](#)
 - [Graduate students' agency and resistance after oppressive experiences](#)
 - [Bait and Switch: Representation, Climate, and Tensions of Diversity Work in Graduate Education](#)
 - [Anti-racism reading list](#)
 - [Black History Month Library](#)
- Resources on good ally behavior
 - [How to be a good ally to your Black friends](#)
 - [Beyond the Hashtag: How to Take Anti-Racist Action in Your Life](#)
 - [Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race](#)

- [10 Steps to Non-Optical Allyship](#)