

Indiana University Student Government

Bloomington, IN

June 1, 2020

Dear Hoosiers,

We want to start this letter by sending our condolences to the families and friends of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, and unfortunately, the countless other heard and unheard names that have been victims of murder, brutality, and discrimination at the hands of police officers across America. Furthermore, the IU Student Government condemns any act of racism in any form. We unequivocally proclaim, today and always, that Black Lives Matter.

The Black community has been the victim of systematic racism, oppression, and police brutality for far too long. We are all a part of the institutions that replicate these disturbing outcomes and it is well past the time for us to recognize this and demand change.

No human being should ever have their right to safety and security violated at the hands of anyone, especially the individuals and systems that have sworn to serve and protect them. However, the truth in America is that the Black community faces oppression on a day to day basis when interacting with law enforcement and beyond. The presence of systematic racism and heightened scrutiny of minority communities is no longer up for debate. It is a truth that many people are forced to endure. Each of us must do our part to denounce these injustices and use our respective privileges to advocate for equal rights for all. This responsibility calls for everyone to confront their implicit biases.

Fighting for justice and equity has been a core mission of the IU Student Government since its inception. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to advocating for the physical welfare, equity, and inclusion of Black students. The heartbreaking events in Ferguson, MI with the criminal shooting of Michael Brown Jr. in 2014, to the murder of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, and now the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in 2020 need to be catalysts for change in our local community and beyond. We must do better. Despite the immense pain and oppression, it is inspirational and empowering to watch as citizens and organizations exercise their first amendment right and come together to voice their anger and the desire for positive change.

We are firm in our belief that this is not a political issue but rather a human rights issue and we all benefit from a more transparent, just, and empathetic system. As members of the IU Bloomington community, we feel it is important to voice our concerns over the continued aggressive nature of police officers as protests rise across the country and ask our representatives in Bloomington, Indianapolis, and Washington D.C. to take tangible action towards progress. While raising our voices is important, it is also important to recognize your own privilege and take action. **IUSG demands IUPD institute ongoing mandatory diversity and de-escalation training as well as list police policy procedures on the IUPD website. In addition, we are going to appoint an IUPD Liaison, a new position within IUSG, to ensure that we are having consistent communication between both organizations.**

We encourage the IU community to contact their elected representatives and local police departments to voice their concerns and for those who are able, to donate and take part in peaceful protests. Please see the information below for tangible action steps:

Donate:

Follow this link to see where you can donate in support of protestors who have been arrested:

<https://bailfunds.github.io/>

Donate to the George Floyd Memorial Fund:

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

Donate to Black Lives Matter network:

https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms_blm_homepage_2019

Donate to the I Run With Maud fundraiser:

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

“Please, I Can’t Breathe” | Banneker Community Center located in Bloomington

<http://spot.fund/rKySf>

Protest:

Enough: Peaceful March/Protest against Police Brutality in Bloomington, IN

June 5th at 2:00 pm, Dunn Meadow

<https://www.facebook.com/events/3053893141326870/>

Get in touch with Black Student Organizations to see what they are doing to protest against oppression and police violence

Black Student Union: blbsu@iu.edu

https://www.instagram.com/iu_bsu/

NAACP: iubnaacp@gmail.com

https://www.instagram.com/iu_naacp/

Petitions:

Text “Floyd” to 55156 to sign the #JusticeforFloyd Petition:

https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/justiceforfloyd_george_floyd_minneapolis

Justice for Breonna Taylor:

<https://action.justiceforbreonna.org/sign/BreonnaWasEssential/>

<https://www.change.org/p/andy-beshear-justice-for-breonna-taylor>

Contact:

IUPD: (812)-855-4111

Bloomington PD: (812)-339-4477

Mayor of Bloomington, John Hamilton: (812)-349-3406

Representative Trey Hollingsworth: (202)-225-5315

Senator Todd Young: (317)-226-6700

Senator Mike Braun: (260)-427-2164

Indiana State Representative Matt Pierce: (800)-382-9842

Indiana State Senator Mark Stoops: (800)-382-9467

Other resources on campus:

IU Bias incident reporting:

<https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/student-support/get-help/report-bias-incident/index.html>

IU Counseling and Psychological Services:

<https://healthcenter.indiana.edu/counseling/index.html>

IU Office of the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs:

<https://diversity.iu.edu/>

In solidarity,

Rachel Aranyi
Interim Student Body President

Ruhan Syed
Interim Student Body Vice President

Andrew J. Ireland
Speaker of Congress