



June 1st, 2020

[Content Warning: Anti-Black Violence, Police Violence]

Dear UBC Community,

On behalf of the entire AMS, we stand in solidarity with Black communities here at UBC, in Vancouver, Minneapolis, Toronto, and around the world, in strongly asserting that Black Lives Matter. The systemic violence that individuals who are Black are confronted with on a daily basis must stop.

Black students are an incredibly important part of our UBC Community. The AMS would like to extend our unwavering support to individuals from the Black community who are grieving or in distress due to recent events in both the United States and Canada. Racial violence is a persisting result of colonial systems, and the systemic racism that still exists deserves our immediate attention and support for Black communities. Anti-Black racism is an issue that all institutions must acknowledge and take immediate action to correct these injustices - including the AMS. We are committed to proactive action against anti-Black racism, and the AMS will be actively working to create new programming and resources to combat these issues in our community.

The AMS stands in solidarity with all those who fight racial oppression and violence. We recognize that students and their communities belong to groups who are put at risk by discriminatory violence that extends well beyond specific events. We would also like to remind the UBC Community of the necessity of being actively anti-racist, and to employ anti-racism in your daily lives - not just when violence occurs. It is our responsibility to listen, learn, and take anti-racist action.

Attached with this letter is a list of support options for students who are in distress, as well as calls to action for members of the community to join the AMS and the AMS SASC in support of Black Lives Matter. We have also included a number of educational resources and articles that we hope will help non-Black folks reflect on how they can be better equipped to support Black communities.

#SayTheirNames: George Floyd, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Samwel Uko.

In solidarity,

Cole Evans
President

Georgia Yee
VP Academic and
University Affairs

Lucia Liang
VP Finance

Kalith Nanayakkara
VP External

Sylvester Mensah Jr.
VP Administration

Educational Resources and Articles

“How to be Actively Anti-Racist” via @goodgoodgoodco

https://www.instagram.com/p/CAvbZyVh1xc/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

“On Racist Killings and Legality” via Chimedum Ohaegbu

<https://medium.com/@chimedum/on-racist-killings-and-legality-759e9a9d428b>

“Guide to Allyship” via guidetoallyship.com

<https://guidetoallyship.com>

“Ways You Can Help” via blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#

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

“Anti-Racism Resources for White People” via Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein

bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES

“Resources & Tools Regarding Racism & Anti-Blackness” via Tatum Dorrell, Matthew Herndon, and Jourdan Dorrell

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bUJrgX8vspyy7YttiEC2vD0DawrpPYiZs94V0ov7qZQ/htmlview>

For Support

1. AMS Sexual Assault Support Centre

- a. **Call** for support at 604 827 5180
- b. **Email** for information at sasc@ams.ubc.ca
- c. **Visit in person** at Room 3127 in the AMS Nest.
- d. **Online** at <https://amssasc.ca/>

2. Empower Me

- a. **Call the 24/7 helpline** at 1-844-741-6389 (toll-free) from anywhere in North America for immediate crisis support.
- b. Empower Me **allows students to connect with qualified counsellors**, consultants, and life coaches for a variety of issues. As an eligible student at UBC Vancouver, you're entitled to sessions delivered in person, by telephone, by video-counselling, or by e-counselling.
- c. http://www.studentcare.ca/rte/en/UniversityofBritishColumbiaAMSGSS_EmpowerMe_EmpowerMe

3. Crisis Line Association of BC (CLABC)

- a. **The Crisis Line Association of BC (CLABC)** is the provincial association representing member crisis lines from across British Columbia. Members of CLABC provide emotional support, crisis and suicide assessment and intervention, and resource information.
 - b. **1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)**: for individuals who are or know someone who is having thoughts of suicide. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and in up to 140 languages.
 - c. **310-Mental Health (310-6789 - no need to dial an area code)**: for individuals who would like emotional support, information and resources specific to mental health in British Columbia. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is toll-free anywhere in British Columbia (no need to dial an area code).
 - d. **Map of Crisis Lines**: provides an interactive map to search for the direct number to local crisis line services in British Columbia.
- 4. UBC Equity and Inclusion**
- a. **Call at 604 827 1773**
 - b. **Email** for more information at info@equity.ubc.ca
 - c. **Visit in person** 2306 – 1874 East Mall, Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z1
 - d. **Online at** <https://equity.ubc.ca/resources/students/>
- 5. Colour Connected Against Racism UBC**
- a. An AMS resource group that provides support and information to students who feel alienated and disempowered due to discrimination.
 - b. **Email** for more information at colourconnectedubc@gmail.com
 - c. **Online at** <https://www.facebook.com/ubc.ccar/>

Calls to Action

- By **contributing to the Black in BC Community Support Fund for COVID-19**. “This Black community support initiative is a fundraiser for a low-barrier, emergency, micro-grant program for Black people in British Columbia, Canada, who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.” <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/covid19-black-community-support-vancouver>
- By **contributing to the George Floyd Memorial Fund**: https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd?link_id=0&can_id=428d7f9a8370f9fb78b924041f2fb8da&source=email-stand-in-solidarity-against-police-violence&email_referrer=email_817616&email_subject=stand-in-solidarity-against-police-violence
- By **contributing to the Justice for Regis fund**: <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/cggys2-justice-for-regis>
- By **contributing to the fund in support of Ahmaud Arbery’s family**: <https://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/395160/supporting-ahmaud-arberys-family>
- By **contributing to the Minnesota Freedom Fund**. The fund will directly support paying bail and immigration bonds. As Black communities face harsher sentencing, disparities in bail settlements, and higher rates of arrest than their non-Black counterparts, supporting the Minnesota Freedom Fund will directly address the inequalities faced by Black communities in the criminal justice system. <https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/donate>

- By **contributing to any bail funds** on this crowd-sourced Google doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1X4-YS3vFn5CLL9QtJSU0xqmTh_h8XilXgOqGAjZISBl/previiew?fbclid=IwAR2trHe9Uh9WA6R1l_KagmyNVnpG0m157YKe9gwWFesRwOoHUlr6GKhIFxQ&pru=AAABcopMPQU*K_puEnU-cBUGKdR1iGi4tA
- By **contributing to Black Lives Matter Vancouver**: <https://www.gofundme.com/blmvan>

If donating is not an option, here are other actionable ways to uplift the voices that are demanding justice and inquiry into police violence against George Floyd, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, and Breonna Taylor.

- **Sign the petition** for Justice for Regis Korchinski-Paquet: https://www.change.org/p/justice-for-regis-korchinski-paquet?recruiter=1052678673&recruited_by_id=3379c9b0-67c1-11ea-ada4-a51ce4e18367
- **Sign the petition** or call to demand justice for George Floyd: <https://www.justiceforbigfloyd.com/>
- **Sign this petition**: Civil rights group Color of Change launched a petition asking that all the officers involved in Floyd's death are brought to justice: https://act.colorofchange.org/sign/justiceforfloyd_george_floyd_minneapolis
- **Call Toronto officials** and demand an independent investigation into the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, including
 - Gord Perks, City councillor for High Park: 416-392-7919
 - Bhutilla Karpoche, MPP for High Park: 416-763-5630
 - Arif Virani, MP for High Park: 613-992-2936
 - Police station (11th division) which polices High Park: 416-808-1100
 - Attorney General of Ontario, Doug Downey: 416-326-2220
- **Visit** <https://justiceforbreonna.org/> and support their efforts, which include contacting representatives and petitioning for policy change and police accountability.