

Dear Rutgers Law School,

The Asian and Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA) wishes to convey a message of support and solidarity to our fellow students of color, particularly those in the Black and African – American communities and ABLs organization. We ask every one of APALSA’s members, and the Rutgers Law School student body at-large, to utilize every avenue of action to counter and condemn all forms of bigotry, racism, and discrimination. The countless deaths of Black individuals lost to police and white supremacist violence are sadly unable to be reversed. However, our actions at this moment will define us, our community, and our country going forward. Our actions, solidarity, and support for our fellow Black students, and students of color, *will* save the lives of others going forward.

The recent tragedies of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor are painful and vicious reminders of the distance we as a society still have to go in combatting racism and discrimination in all of its forms, but particularly against our Black allies, and specifically our Black women and non-gender binary allies. The killings of Ahmaud, George, and Breonna force each of us as to introspect and think about what our role is in stamping out pernicious racism and prejudice. Will we stand by and be idle? Or, will we speak up for those whose voices have been marginalized? Are we being an ally, or are we co-opting someone else’s struggle and movement? These questions have no easy answers and force us to grapple with our own inherent and implicit biases.

Sadly, Ahmaud, George, and Breonna are the most recent victims of a system designed to oppress, stifle, and trample the rights and lives of minorities. Each minority group in this country has their own tales of struggles, resisting, and triumphing. Right now, it is time for other groups to listen and stand side-by-side with our Black colleagues and let them know we are here. It is time to resist. It is time to challenge systems of power in every manner possible. It is the time to organize. The status quo benefits those in power. The status quo protects those in power. The status quo *needs* to be changed. The status quo *has needed* to be changed. APALSA and its members stand in solidarity and alliance with our fellow communities of students of color, with the families of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor, and with the families of countless Black and minority lives lost to police and White supremacist violence. APALSA is committed to taking meaningful action to help reduce future violence and oppression.

Black Lives Matter. Say Their Names.

George Floyd. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Tony McDade. Trayvon Martin. Tamir Rice. LaQuan MacDonald. Freddie Gray. Michael Brown. Philando Castile. Eric Garner. Tanesha Anderson. Rekia Boyd. Aiyanna Stanley - Jones. Sandra Bland. They were more than a name.

With Respect and In Solidarity,

APALSA
Rutgers Law School - Newark