



Rutgers Law School Camden's Association for Public Interest Law, APIL, would like to take a moment to declare our support and address the events of these past few weeks, which have been a challenging, devastating, and emotional time for our country. The murders of, including but not limited to, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dominique Clayton, Eric Reason, Atatiana Jefferson, Botham Jean, Philando Castile, Bettie Jones, Walter Scott, Natasha McKenna, Tamir Rice, Tanisha Anderson, Michelle Cusseaux, Ezel Ford, Eric Garner, as well as the harassment of Christian Cooper and countless other acts of police brutality, continue to highlight the racial injustice and inequality that is so pervasive in our society.

Systematically, overtly, covertly, legally and in so many other different ways, we are left to see that we are not all treated equally and humanely. In a country that lives by the adages such as “all men are created equal” or “home of the brave and land of the free;” a country that exudes hope and promises equality, it is hard to fathom how in the year 2020 this still occurs. Why?

We, at APIL, stand together with BLSA, ALIANZA, APALSA, Dean Mutcherson, the Rutgers Law School community, the entire Black Lives Matter movement, and the rest of the country. We stand, not in silence, not in indifference, but with strength and in volume. We express our solidarity by having conversations towards creating a change that is greatly needed in this country. We express our solidarity by demanding this change. This cannot continue to happen. We pledge our support in ensuring that change happens. Martin Luther King said, “Like, life, racial understanding is not something that we find, but something that we must create...A great nation is a compassionate nation. We may not all fully and intimately understand this pervasive racism and acts of injustice that exists, but we at APIL will work to help create the understanding that is needed to make us a great and compassionate nation.”

We stand together. We stand in love and with hope. We stand together with everybody to be a part of the change that we want to see. We are all equal.

Some of you are starting difficult conversations at home, some of you are taking to the streets, and some of you are just trying to continue to survive in a society that has never truly treated you with respect and equality. COVID-19 has made this fight so much more difficult as

many of us are stuck at home, possibly alone or with roommates or family who are part of the problem, with only social media to connect us, which can be isolating, increase fatigue, and make us feel like we're fighting alone - but you are not alone. We, APIL, would like to double down on our commitment to preparing the Rutgers Law School community to be better, stronger agents of change. That is why we have assembled, and continue to assemble, [the attached Google Drive folder](#) of resources and pledge to host and support more events and trainings on campus this upcoming 2020-2021 academic year aimed at fostering a more supportive, socially aware community and strengthening the advocacy skills of the future lawyers who attend Rutgers Law School. The resources in this bank include media to consume to further your education and ability to educate others, organizations you should donate to and follow to stay informed, information on how to stay safe and effective when protesting, trainings to attend to learn how to be a better ally and stand up for the underrepresented, and mental health resources, especially those created with BIPOC in mind, because we are not fighting at full capacity when we aren't first taking care of our own health. These lists are in no way comprehensive, but we hope you find something among them that sticks with you and gives you more tools with which to fight. To my BIPOC peers: Stay strong; you are not in this alone. To my privileged peers: Please listen, learn, and advocate.

To kick things off, this is a link to a partial map of Black-Led Black Liberation Organizations:
<http://mendozao.github.io/Resource-Generation-Map/app/index.html>

If there is a resource you know of and that is not already included in this bank or have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about our efforts, please feel free to reach out to the 2020-2021 President of APIL, Lisa Laffend, directly at lisa.laffend@rutgers.edu.

Sincerely,

Rutgers Law School Camden's Association for Public Interest Law

2020-2021 E-Board: Lisa Laffend, Stephanie Mignogna, Abioye Oyeyemi, Eric Glass, Shannon Eden, Chandler Touchstone, Dawn Erickson, Grace Joyce

2019-2020 E-Board: Jason Stump, Aryn Keyel, Bao Ngo, Brandon Fishbaum, David Kang, Henry Orlowski-Scherer, Yaffa Stone

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