

South Asian Law Students Association
Muslim Law Students Association
Rutgers Law School, Camden
217 N. 5th St.
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SALSA & MLSA STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

“When a person places the proper value on freedom, there is nothing under the sun that he will not do to acquire that freedom. Whenever you hear a man saying he wants freedom, but in the next breath he is going to tell you what he won’t do to get it, or what he doesn’t believe in doing in order to get it, he doesn’t believe in freedom. A man who believes in freedom will do anything under the sun to acquire . . . or preserve his freedom.” Malcolm X

We live in times of great turmoil, where multiple fights for freedom, as described above, are taking place. On one hand, there is a fight by our Black brothers and sisters to be treated with human dignity, respect, and the fair administration of the law. On the other hand, supporters of the status quo are trying to preserve their freedom to live comfortably in a world that often overlooks the biases against Black people and their struggles.

Both the South Asian and Muslim Law Students Associations, respectively, unequivocally place our support behind the former of the two battles for freedom described above. With the understanding that solidarity among people of color is more important now than ever, but also that there can be no such solidarity without addressing the heightened struggle of Black people across the globe, regardless of religion or nationality.

We honor the legacies of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and far too many others who were failed by a social framework rife with the devaluation and perpetuation of violence against Black lives.

The Ummah has in large part grown and thrived because of our Black Muslim brothers and sisters that have spread our message of peace and love throughout the nation and globe. The killing of an innocent person is like killing all of humanity. It is our duty to stand with our Black brothers and sisters of any faith.

For too long, the South Asian community has been manipulated by the systems that exist to think that the idea of Asians as model minorities and their abilities to succeed in this nation supplants any racism within its borders. This can and will no longer continue, as it drives a wedge between Asians as POC and the Black community, who have stood with us time and time again when this country has proven that white supremacist ideals are pervasive to all of our communities, even if in different ways.

As refugees and immigrants to the United States., our communities have ridden on the coattails of Black justice struggles, which paved the way for our fights for freedom and equal treatment in America. It is only the bare minimum that we stand strong with the ongoing protests and use our voices to adamantly state that Black Lives Matter.

We call upon our communities to reflect on the tragic and unjust taking of George Floyd's, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor's, and far too many others' lives and recognize that they are not anomalies in the context of an oppressive and broken system. Black Americans are disproportionately and systematically targeted and criminalized, and it is our responsibility to augment their demands for justice. We must further recognize that this discriminate administration of the law and its often violent enforcement are symptoms of the larger issue of mass incarceration of the Black community as a means for upholding white supremacy and social control.

We must raise our voices to fight the dehumanization and devaluation of life that these issues subject our Black peers to. We must stand alongside them to ensure that they are treated with human dignity and are given justice. We must stand in profound solidarity with the Black community, in the demand for justice for too many lives stolen by white supremacy.

It clear from struggles experienced as South Asians and Muslims, both respectively and together, that state and police violence know no borders, and therefore neither should our solidarity and shared commitment to each other's struggles.

While our presence at this campus is small, our desire to be advocates and allies for our Black peers is strong. We commit to supporting and promoting the Black Law Students Association in their programming and initiatives and using our own programs and initiatives to address the overlooked issues of anti-blackness among minority communities and the plight of Black people in a system designed to exploit and perpetuate violence against them.

Where to donate:

[NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#)

[George Floyd Memorial Fund](#)

[I Run with Maud](#)

[Justice for Breonna Taylor](#)

[Philadelphia Bail Fund](#)

National Bail Fund Resources: [National Bail Fund Network](#) and [Donate to Bail Funds for Protestors](#)

In Solidarity,

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