

Rutgers Law School Social Justice Scholars Cohort of '22 Statement of Solidarity

As law students dedicated to social justice, we stand firmly and unapologetically with Black people and against the racism and oppression that are the foundation of this country. We recognize that the terror that was brought upon George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery in recent months was not just the result of racist policing, but the product of 400 years of oppression of Black people in this country. Racist policing is just a symptom of the capitalist, white-supremacist world that we live in, and it has dedicated itself to protecting colonial legacies. We recognize that this is not “a bad apple” or “a few bad apples” issue. We believe that systemic racism includes everyone from the police officer that pulls over a Black person for looking suspicious, to the prosecutor who disproportionately imprisons those Black people without question or hesitation, to the judges that have historically protected the police, and to the politicians that allocate unnecessary funding to police and “corrections” departments when their own Black constituents are hungry, without healthcare, and without access to quality education.

As we watch and/or participate in the uprisings and rebellions across the country, we should recognize the privilege from which we do so. Unconditional support includes recognizing that resistance cannot always be perfect or pretty. When people have been marginalized to the point of invisibility, their anger is righteous and justified. When a whole generation has grown up with Trayvon Martin as a household name and as Flint, Michigan, still does not have clean water we should ask ourselves: What am I CHOOSING to see? How can people loot if they are owed reparations? How can people be called violent when they are acting in self-defense? In a world that values property and profit more than Black lives, is destroying property a final plea for recognition?

Ask yourself: Is the world we currently live in capable of delivering the justice that George Floyd deserves? And if not, how do we build a world that is not only capable of delivering justice but also capable of never allowing this terror to happen again?

We choose to see the uprisings across the country as committed acts of solidarity and LOVE. As long as the police keep killing Black people, we will keep demanding justice. Black Lives Matter.

In the words of Black, Puerto-Rican Harvard Law graduate and attorney Pedro Albizu Campos, “When tyranny is the law, revolution is the order.”

**Support those on the front lines by donating to your local bail fund.
1,001 people have been killed by police every year since 2013.
DEFUND. DISARM. DISMANTLE.**

In Solidarity,
Lauren Harris | Kayvon Paul | Mumbi Ngugi | Viktoria Zerda | Tue Ho |
Casey Schu | Hope Long | Stephanie Mignogna | Sam Gilbert | Dean Jill Friedman