

**A Statement Regarding the Wellbeing of Black Students  
and Cases of Police Violence in the United States  
May 29, 2020**

Dear NYU Community:

The Student Government Assembly Executive Committee and Senators at-Large for Black Students wish to acknowledge the injustices and crimes against humanity that have recently been committed by members of the Minneapolis Police Department, resulting in protests across the nation. Times like these call for moments of both personal and communal reflection into the institutionalized racism that plagues our community, and reiterates the importance of using our voices to make change. The horrific murder of George Floyd on May 25th, along with the murder of countless other innocent African Americans, requires us, as students, to be loud and bold. These moments ask us to look beyond ourselves, our privilege, and our own silence. In doing so, we are able to support our fellow Black sisters and brothers when they need us most. In recent years, we have become familiar with the ways in which silence can be just as deadly as the racism and police brutality that took Mr. Floyd's life. For that reason, the Student Government Assembly has made the elevation and projection of Black voices its primary goal in this time of great loss. While the Student Government Assembly does not encourage violence, it supports in solidarity the large-scale protests in cities across the United States. It is our belief that such protests, including recent violence, are the result of years of failure on behalf of the state to protect the bodies of Black people in the face of racist policing and widespread discrimination. As the elected body that represents the interests of NYU students, we will hold ourselves accountable to do just that. Our resources will be made completely available to those students who seek to elevate Black voices on campus and demand accountability in our nation's law enforcement and its consistent violation of the rights of Black Americans.

The revelations this morning regarding members of NYU's Lambda Phi Epsilon chapter are deeply distressing and disturbing. The words and beliefs exhibited in these members' leaked messages are entirely antithetical to the values of this institution and are yet another reminder of the pervasive prejudice and racism both within college campuses and amongst our larger community. It comes with great shame and disappointment that these hateful words were written at this particular moment, a moment in which violence and bias towards members of the Black community are so apparent and appalling. Such conduct is inexcusable, and cannot go without action — we stand by the university's swift decision to suspend LPE, and will be working closely with the university to ensure that such conduct can not, and will not, continue. This issue does not end with the suspension of LPE, not in the slightest. As a body, we must seek exacting and thoughtful institutional reform, and implement measures that both prevent and eliminate racism on our campus in any capacity.

Here are some updates as of this Friday afternoon into both incidents. The man who killed Mr. Floyd has been arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter. We unequivocally call for the arrest and charging of the three former officers who not just complicitly stood over this terrible act as it unfolded, but actively defended the space within which George was killed.

Lambda Phi Epsilon has been suspended effective immediately and indefinitely. We know these steps only address the incident at hand and do not affect the systemic changes required of NYU to prevent the promulgation of any and all anti-Black sentiments and beliefs. Please find NYU's Greek Life affiliated statements here: [NYUMGC](#), [NYUIFC](#), [And NYUPanHel](#). [Please also find here NYU Asian Heritage Month's statement in response to the events of today](#).

We are working together, as a community, to take the appropriate measures for justice towards the unacceptable commentary made by some of the members of the Lambda Phi Epsilon fraternity. On behalf of the Student Government Assembly Executive Committee and Senators at-Large for Black Students, we would like to publicly show our support for the emotional and physical wellbeing of Black Students and the Community at Large. We condemn the animosity and racism in the country, and specifically in the NYU Community, experienced by our peers this week.

[In the coming days, we hope that you will continue to contact us about your concerns and specific needs as we work with student leaders from a wide-range of communities to draft a letter of support](#). This letter will outline specific systemic changes that the student body demands of the University in order to make sure that such racist and damaging behavior never takes place on our campus again.

**We encourage those who can to take action. Now, more than ever, is a time to be vocal.**

**Here is what you can do:**

1. [Link Tree to both donation and resource links for organizations in Minneapolis, Columbus, and Louisville, bail funds, and GoFundMe's](#). The last three links are to Black feminist and critical race theory google drives and reading lists. This database was thoughtfully and tirelessly compiled by members of our own NYU Student body themselves, Adrianna Espinal and Kenny Leon.
2. [Donate to the Minnesota Freedom Fund which helps post bail for protesters arrested during the Minneapolis protests this week](#).
3. [Donate to the George Floyd Memorial Fund, started by Mr. Floyd's brother](#)
4. [Donate to the Amaud Arbery Fundraiser](#)
5. [Sign the petition and donate to the Justice for Breonna Taylor Petition and Fundraiser](#)
6. [Donate to the National Bailout Fund- Free Black Mamas](#)
7. [Donate to the Black Visions Collective](#)
8. [Donate to Reclaim the Block](#)

9. [Donate to North Star Health Collective](#)
10. [Donate to the Louisville Bail Fund](#)
11. [Sign the petition Justice for George Floyd](#)
12. [Make calls and sign the petition to demand justice for Mr. Floyd](#)
13. Call Minnesota District Attorney at (612)-324-4499
14. [Demand that the officers involved in Mr. Floyd's death are charged](#)
15. Text JUSTICE to 55156
16. Text FLOYD to 55156
17. Text ENOUGH to 55156

And as always, your wellbeing is absolutely the top priority. The NYU Wellness Exchange can be reached by phone at (212) 443-9999 or via chat (on the NYU Wellness Exchange App) during all hours of the day. If you partake in any social demonstrations, please consider social distancing and wearing a mask at all times in accordance with the CDC's rules and regulations.

With Light and Love,

Azeki Ali, Senator at-Large, Black Students & Students Living with Mental Illness/Disabilities  
Shamon Lawrence, Alternate Senator at-Large, Black Students & Students Experiencing Food Insecurity  
Mika-elle Metellus, Alternate Senator at-Large, Black Students & Women of Color

Raj Kittusamy, Student Government Assembly Chair  
Hayden Howard, Student Senators Council Chair  
Ryan Campbell, Student Presidents Council Chair  
Taylah Bland, Global Student Council Chair