

June 2, 2020

Dear Rutgers Community,

The Asian American Cultural Center is writing this letter to stand in solidarity with our Black students and colleagues, brothers, and sisters. The recent horrific, unjust acts that led to the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Tony McCade continue to highlight the ongoing challenges of systemic racism and oppression that criminalizes and dehumanizes Black lives. The Black lives that have been lost are many, far more than those of recent weeks, and the pain is immeasurable.

We support the worldwide peaceful protests against police brutality and white supremacy. We condemn any and all acts of violence against Black communities.

BLACK LIVES MATTER.

To members of the Black community: we are with you, we hear you, we see you, we support you, and honor the excruciating pain and suffering you have felt, currently feel, and will be feeling for decades. The Black community deserves the right to dignity, respect and honor and the basic privileges of living in the land of the free.

To the members of our Asian, Pacific Islander, Desi American community, many of you have called for us to speak up. We hear you. As humans, it took us moments to process the atrocities and the unlawful killing of George Floyd, but are here for you and for the Black community.

The Asian American Cultural Center recognizes how the painful history of our nation impacts our communities today. We also recognize and understand that when our APIDA and Black communities are pitted against each other, it is rooted in white supremacy which harms us all. We must reflect inwards on the pervasive anti-Blackness in our own communities and how it reinforces oppressive structures.

We must collectively do what we can to boldly resist these ideologies and build solidarity.

- Educate yourself on the history of racism in America
- Understand your privileges and how you can use them to support Black communities
- Challenge casual and/or overt anti-Blackness and racism from family and friends
- Participate in peaceful protests and amplify the voices of the Black people's anger, fear, and hurt
- Create safe spaces for the Black community
- Donate to organizations that are working to improve the lives of the Black community and end systematic racism and oppression

We must work together to dismantle anti-Blackness in our communities and work towards justice. Our paths to liberation and equality are connected and we must show up for the Black community.

In the coming days, AACC will provide opportunities to process, grieve, share, and engage in dismantling anti-Blackness in our communities and supporting the black community. We also will be working collectively with the other Cultural Centers to provide solidarity spaces. We will share those details soon.

As the great APIDA activist Yuri Kochiyama stated, "Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society."

In peace, solidarity, and community,

The Asian American Cultural Center Team
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