

June 4, 2020

To the Rutgers community and, especially, to our students:

“The great social justice changes in our country have happened when people came together, organized, and took direct action. It is this right that sustains and nurtures our democracy today.” -Dolores Huerta

The Center for Latino Arts and Culture expresses its outrage for the recent callous murder of George Floyd, a handcuffed, unarmed African American man at hands of members of the Minneapolis police. This is only the latest in a series of shocking actions committed with impunity that have also taken the lives of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McCade and so many others across the country.

We are here to validate your pain, anger and frustration, and we are here to support you. We are working to develop resources that will assist you through these difficult and trying times, and are working with our partners to develop opportunities to process, grieve and reflect on how we can bring people together and organize for positive social change. We will share these resources and opportunities soon.

We are firm in our belief that our liberation is predicated on working together with others to extinguish racism, prejudice, oppression and inequality.

We call on all people of good will and conscience to stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters, and to join in non-violent protest to bring justice and repair to their families and communities affected by intolerance and racist violence.

We call on our leaders to work urgently to dismantle the historical and long-lasting legacies of slavery, anti-Blackness and white supremacist ideologies that plague policing, the criminal justice system and other institutions in our nation.

We call on the country as a whole to come together, shoulder to shoulder, to peacefully resist all manner of verbal and physical acts that dehumanize people of color, infringe on their civil rights, and condone such acts of violence.

We call every one of us to commit to deep reflection and examination of our personal biases, and to work diligently for the respect of human life and to re-imagine a more just and equitable society.

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For centuries now, Latinos in the United States have demonstrated their allegiance to the American ideals of liberty, truth and justice, and have made great sacrifices and contributions to this society during times of war and peace. To this day, however, many of us continue to experience discrimination because of the accent in our voices, the color of our skin, and our immigration status. Tens of thousands of immigrants are mistreated and incarcerated each day for the sole crime of seeking refuge and relief from violence, poverty and economic despair abroad, and hundreds have died in custody.

We must therefore speak together to lift the voices of those who have been marginalized and oppressed for so long! Your struggle is our struggle!

In unity, solidarity and peace, we stand together!

Center for Latino Arts and Culture
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