

STATEMENT FROM CAMPUS Y CO-PRESIDENTS

**This statement reflects the thoughts of the 2020-2021 Campus Y Co-Presidents and is not a reflection of the Campus Y Executive Board, Cabinet, student body, or staff.

To the Campus Y and Carolina Community,

It is impossible to recount the pain, grief, anger, and sadness that has permeated the past few weeks. We run for them. We share graphics on social media. We say their names: Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and now, George Floyd. But saying their names is no longer enough. Nor is tweeting and hashtagging #BlackLivesMatter and going back to our daily lives as our Black community members live in fear and continue to put their own lives on the line for all of us. To express anything less than a call for action and solidarity would be disingenuous and cowardly. As Donald Trump tweets about killing Americans who dare to engage in community justice, we are reminded of the revolutionary words from Martin Luther King, Jr. that moderates love to forget: “Riots are the language of the unheard.” Not the voiceless, but the unheard.

Calls for nonviolence and insisting on adherence to respectability politics during this time only serve to silence the voices of a community that has every right to feel furious, heartbroken, exhausted, and fed up. Violence has always been part of change and it is a force Black changemakers have encountered at every cornerstone of racial progress in America--the only difference is that violence has been monopolized by white people and the state, and used against Black people for centuries. This is a violence that every white institution is, at the very least, complicit in--including our university that claims to be “Carolina for All.” Time and time again, the university has worked against Black students and activists, disregarded their safety and concerns, disenfranchised the local Black community, and actively upheld white supremacy through its actions.

If you are upset about “looting” and rioting, we ask that you remember that this country was founded upon riots and revolt that we glorify in our history textbooks, and reflect on why you’re so upset that Black Americans are continuing the inherently American tradition of demanding what they are due: the right to live a life without fear for their safety and the safety of their loved ones. Ask yourself why looting--a word steeped in racist bias to begin with--from a multimillion dollar corporation bothers you so much when half of the artifacts in history museums are looted from indigenous people across the world.

As the Co-Presidents of the Campus Y, we stand in complete solidarity with organizers and protesters in Minneapolis and across America who, everyday, engage in the tireless and necessary work of caring for their communities. We compel the members of *our* community towards direct action, now. Claiming to espouse social justice ideals means we stand up and act in moments such as these.

As two South Asian women, we call on other people of color who aren’t Black to step up to the frontlines, and confront anti-blackness in our own communities. The responsibility falls on each of us to ensure that antiblack slurs and sentiments are completely unacceptable in the spaces we inhabit. We also call for white people to do the same, and to educate yourselves without relying on emotional labor from your Black friends and peers. There are many resources available to begin learning anti-racism as a practice.

There is also so much you can do to help. Please reference the resources below to see how you can aid organizers in Minneapolis, Louisville, or locally. With the National Guard arriving and the President threatening violence against civilians, relying on each other is the only way through this. Donate if you are able. Call and petition if you are not. If you decide to participate in a local protest, be careful and take necessary precautions to protect yourself and your identity.

To our Black community members: you are immensely loved and valued. On the other side of this tumultuous and heartbreaking moment is the potential for a freer, safer, and fairer world. We believe in that vision, and we will do our part to make it happen.

In love and solidarity,

Veda Patil and Thilini Weerakkody
2020-2021 Campus Y Co-Presidents

ACTION STEPS:

** This is an active and evolving document. We will continue to post updated funds and sources for people to contribute if they are able.

(5/31) Because of the progression of protests and the large levels of support shown to Minneapolis, we highly recommend donating to local bail funds as well:

[Take Action Chapel Hill](#) Bail Fund (Raleigh-Durham-CH region)

[North Carolina Community Bail Fund of Durham](#)

Donate to Charlotte Uprising Bail Fund through these platforms ([source](#)):

Cash App: \$WereStillHere

Venmo: @ResistanceisBeautiful

Alternate Venmo: @communityjustice

1. DONATE:

- a. [Black Visions Collective MN](#)
- b. [Reclaim the Block](#)
- c. [Minnesota Freedom Fund](#) (they have stated that they are overwhelmed by donations and would like supporters to donate to the organizations listed above)
- d. [Northstar Health Collective](#)
- e. [George Floyd Memorial Fund](#) (directly goes to his family)
- f. [Fundraiser for daughter Gianna Floyd](#) (launched by sister Bridgett Floyd)
- g. [Unicorn Riot](#) (nonprofit dedicated to fair reporting on police brutality)
- h. [Brooklyn Bail Fund](#)
- i. [Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha](#) (Center of United Workers in the Fight)
- j. [Sybrina Fulton's campaign](#) for Miami-Dade County Commissioner (mother of Trayvon Martin)
- k. [Ahmaud Arbery Fundraiser](#)
- l. [Mutual Aid Fund for Minneapolis Public Housing Residents](#)
- m. [Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition Mutual Aid Fund](#)
- n. [Louisville COVID-19 Response Fund](#)
- o. [Louisville Community Bail Fund](#)
- p. [GoFundMe to support Kenneth Walker](#) (Breonna Taylor's partner)
- q. Please additionally check out [this document](#) of more resources compiled by UNC Black Congress

2. SPEAK UP:

- To demand release of protestors/prosecution of all officers involved:
 - a. County Attorney Mike Freeman (612-348-5550)
 - b. Mayor Frey (612-673-2100)
 - c. Minneapolis City Attorney's office (612-673-3000)

- Demand justice for Breonna Taylor via [petition signing or phone banking](#)

If you have any further resources that you would like to share with the Y community, please contact campusy.unc@gmail.com.