

The Stanford Khmer Association stands in solidarity with the Black community and with the Black Lives Matter movement as racial violence and police brutality against black folk continues every day. Though Thomas Lane, Alexander Keung, and Tou Thao were charged with abetting in the murder of George Floyd, and Derek Chauvin's charges are now for second-degree murder, these charges came after more than a week of national protests across the States, international condemnation of the government's response to civil participation against racial injustice, and community efforts and grassroots activism against systemic inequality. Though now the Minneapolis City Council announced they plan to dismantle their police department, this is one department of many, and the road towards changing the racial dynamics in this country will be longer than these past two weeks.

In the past few months, the world has witnessed the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor. However, due to the frequency that police brutality and hate crimes occur, there are many more that don't reach the news and receive the justice they deserve. Even worse, we forget the names and the lives we do learn of because there are too many victims of the violently dangerous racism that has plagued this country since its founding. These past weeks have not only been an incredibly crucial time to stand in solidarity with the Black community, but also has been a reminder that this allyship and political participation against systemic racism in all forms needs to continue every day. We, as an organization, are here to listen and actively support as we continue to educate ourselves on the plethora of injustices that are part of the systemic oppression the Black community faces, such as the school to prison pipeline.

Our club as a whole aims to promote awareness of pertinent issues while strengthening community. Though we are a small community that struggles to do this as consistently as we would hope, recent events are testament to why it's continuously important for us to stand up and speak out.

Thus, we recognize as well that anti-blackness within our Cambodian community is vehemently prevalent; it is a counterpart to the also prevalent colorism that members of our own community experience, a byproduct of a long history of colonization, and is an issue that we, the Stanford Khmer Association, have not addressed enough. We recognize that this colorism and anti-blackness is not unique to just the Cambodian community, but is present in virtually all Asian and Asian American communities. This anti-blackness, which inevitably is a contributor to Tuy Thao's being an accomplice in George Floyd's murder, must not only be verbally condemned but actively changed, beginning with conversations with our loved ones and continuing with direct support for our fellow communities of color.

We also acknowledge that Cambodian Americans have directly benefited from the efforts of the Black community who advocated against the bombing of Cambodia and who advocated for the U.S. to accept Cambodian and other Southeast Asian refugees in our families' time of need. We would not be here if it were not for these efforts.

We recognize and commend the efforts of those protesting and exercising other forms of activism advocating for the Black Lives Matter movement now. All forms of political participation are valid, including rioting, as the many ways we politically participate lead to greater changes. Examples from history that many should know are the Civil Rights Act of 1968 after two days of rioting, the inquiry into Rodney King's case after six days of rioting in L.A 1992. Even this Pride month, the current LGBTQ+ rights and activism have their origins from the Stonewall Riots of 1969, another marginalized community for which members of the Black community (such as Stormé DeLarverie and Marsha P. Johnson) greatly advocated. It is imperative that we, SKA, and we, as a collective student body, continue to fight for justice.

The generation *now* is responsible for what is happening *now*, and all of us need to hold ourselves, our friends, and our family accountable for what is happening around us. We need to acknowledge the roots of the problems at hand. If you're able to, speak up. Have respectful conversations. Educate yourself.

For this, we would like to share these links:

**DONATE:**

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#donate>

If you can afford to buy daily, \$5 morning coffee; if you can afford to buy \$30 worth of snacks monthly; if you can afford to go to the mall and buy \$200 worth of new clothes on the reg, then you can afford to donate.

**If you cannot afford to donate, or if you would just like to further your financial contribution, please follow the links that support through ad revenue on YouTube or link sharing via instructions in this**

**tweet:**<https://twitter.com/kookpics/status/1268092412896980993?s=21>

**PHONE BANK, TEXT, OR LEAVE EMAILS:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19pWijUPmnU5Jeu37zMSSbajL2E9eOI7RGaME8QqoXM/c/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#text>

**SIGN PETITIONS:**

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#petitions>

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/14mzu3z\\_TZ\\_\\_XPqjV-q9TKj3SxCaGivH6fCiSSyIil74/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14mzu3z_TZ__XPqjV-q9TKj3SxCaGivH6fCiSSyIil74/edit?usp=sharing)

**VOTE, EDUCATE YOURSELVES AND OTHERS:**

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/#resources>