

June 2, 2020

Content Warning: Racial violence

Dear Community,

The Stanford Vietnamese Student Association stands in solidarity with the Black community as the racist police and U.S. government continue to mandate violence against Black people. At the hands of these oppressive systems, the lives of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, David McAtee, and many more were taken too soon. We see them. We say their names. **They should still be with us right now, and we will keep saying their names as we continue to support the Black community in their fight for liberation.**

We recognize that there is no “return to normalcy” for Black communities. **We cannot—and refuse—to allow for the “return to normalcy” that many Americans have been demanding in light of these recent events.** Doing so would be defending and upholding structural anti-Black racism and no amount of reform can eradicate the fundamental racism that underpins these systems.

We strive for imagining alternative processes to justice that allow us to account for harm in our communities without the involvement of the police. **We want to fight for a world guided by transformative justice processes,** especially recognizing the harm that carceral punishment and institutional racism have waged on the Black community and all communities of color.

We are appalled by and condemn the behaviors of Tou Thao, a police and fellow member of the Asian American community at the scene of George Floyd’s murder. Tou Thao’s complicity in the murder of George Floyd is one instance of the many ways that Asian Americans are complicit in upholding forms of white supremacy and violence toward Black communities. **His deliberate and conscious inaction further propagates systemic racism and is a sober reminder that any inaction is a form of violent action**—one that takes the side of the oppressor. He, like all police, must be held accountable accordingly.

We defend and stand behind the protests and riots. We acknowledge there are riots not initiated by protestors, and we condemn such behaviors by those who are utilizing the movement for personal gain without genuinely standing behind the Black community. We condemn all forms of anti-Blackness within and without our own communities.

We acknowledge that as Vietnamese, Vietnamese Americans, and Asian Americans, our communities have historically perpetuated and continue to perpetuate anti-Blackness. We recognize that we have benefited from both the Black Power and Civil Rights movements, as well as the “model minority myth” stereotype at the expense of Black people. As such, **we vow to actively and continuously interrogate our own forms of anti-Blackness within our organizations and communities, including within our own families.**

It is of utmost importance that we help family members better understand the oppression that the Black community has had to endure and the importance of not remaining silent by actively seeking [resources](#) to bridge the language barrier and by initiating these difficult conversations at the dinner table. We also commit to supporting families of victims, current protests, and the broader Black Lives Matter movement.

Lastly, we encourage our fellow API communities to not stay silent. **Silence is violence.**

In solidarity,

The Stanford Vietnamese Student Association

Resources:

An Open Letter translated in Vietnamese about why BLM and how we as Asians can help: <https://lettersforblacklives.com/k%C3%ADnh-thư-ba-mẹ-cô-chú-bác-câu-di-dương-sinh-mạng-của-người-da-đen-cũng-đáng-trân-tr%E1%BB%8Dng-đối-4a3f1e2c7535>

How the “Model Minority Myth” negatively affects Black communities:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/04/19/524571669/model-minority-myth-again-used-as-a-racial-wedge-between-asians-and-blacks>

Demand the sentencing of the four police officers involved in George Floyd’s murder.

- Call the following Minneapolis officials or [email them using this template:](#)
 - Mayor Jacob Frey: (612) 673-2100
 - DA Mike Freeman: (612) 348-5550
 - Hennepin County Attorney Office: (612) 673-2100
- [Join a phone bank](#) organized by Stanford Students for Workers' Rights
- [Sign this petition](#) organized by color of change demanding the prosecution of the officers involved in the murder of George Floyd

Donate to:

- **[Minnesota Freedom Fund](https://minnesotafreefund.org/donate)** (bail out for protesters)
<https://minnesotafreefund.org/donate>
- **[Black Visions Collective](https://secure.everyaction.com/4omQDAR0oUiUagTu0EG-Ig2)** (QT & Black led organizing committee)
<https://secure.everyaction.com/4omQDAR0oUiUagTu0EG-Ig2>
- **[Reclaim The Block](https://secure.everyaction.com/zae4prEeKESHBy0MKXTIcQ2)** (Police divestment org in minneapolis)
<https://secure.everyaction.com/zae4prEeKESHBy0MKXTIcQ2>
- **[North Star Health Collective](https://www.northstarhealthcollective.org/donate)** (on the ground medical supplies and personnel)
<https://www.northstarhealthcollective.org/donate>

Support Local Demands:

- Sign Reclaim the Block's petition urging MN city council to defund the police:
<https://secure.everyaction.com/eR7GA7oz70GL8doBq19LrA2>
- 26 Ways to be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets:
https://issuu.com/nlc.sf.2014/docs/beyondthestreets_final

Stanford Campus Resources:

- Black Community Services Center (BCSC) - [Join The Diaspora listserv for updates.](#)
- Asian American Activities Center office hours: A3C.stanford.edu
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offer crisis counseling for urgent needs. Clinicians are always on call, even after hours, at (650) 723-3785
 - Black CAPS Counselors, LaWanda Hill, Danielle Amajoyi, and Sedale Williams are available through direct messaging on CAPS website.
 - Asian American counselor available by appointment: Helen Hsu
- The Bridge Peer Counseling Center offers counseling by trained students 24/7 at (650) 723-3392.
- The Office for Religious Life offers spiritual guidance for students at (650) 723-1762.
 - Zoom Office Hours with Dr. Rania Awaad. [Sign up here](#)
- The Graduate Life Office is available during office hours at (650) 736-7078, or 24/7 at (650) 723-8222, pager ID number 25085

Credit for a large portion of this list goes to the staff and students of the Markaz Resource Center, El Centro Chicano y Latino, and The Asian American Activities Center.