

Dear Stanford Women in Finance and Community,

We would like to honor the lives of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Nina Pop, and countless others, lives which were so violently and tragically cut short. We write to you amidst these recent events, yet it is critical for us to note that the events are not isolated and that they are symbolic of systemic injustices embedded in the fabric of our nation. We express grief and outrage at the reality of institutional racism, now and historically. Stanford Women in Finance stands in solidarity with the Black community. We vow to actively fight the structural inequalities and inequities that persist across the globe.

The mission of Stanford Women in Finance is rooted in combating inequalities across gender lines--we were founded on the principle of lowering the barriers of entry for females into the male-dominated field of finance. As a young organization, we continue to evolve and grow. We recognize the fact that SWiF is an organization with privilege, housed in a very privileged institution. While SWiF is dedicated to empowering women of all backgrounds, we recognize that the empowerment of a few privileged individuals is not sufficient without a commitment to creating a just, equitable society for everyone, especially for those outside of the privileged bubble -- we denounce apathy and selfishness, and pledge to strive for the highest standards of empathy and altruism and to become leaders of change; not only recognizing the privilege but also using it to fight for change.

We pledge to define our mission by not only female empowerment but of the empowerment of all--we must focus more strongly on intersectionality. Yet, a verbal commitment is not sufficient, and we thus have decided to share a number of concrete, actionable steps we will be taking. First and foremost, education is necessary. The board has learned and listened; [we have compiled a list of racial justice resources that we hope everyone can contribute to](#) (attached in its current form) and rely on in becoming authentic allies. Moreover, we emphasize the need for conversation. Thus, we will be facilitating a number of conversations, both structured by the board and less structured for everyone to shape. In addition, we have all committed to a token of support. Let's support each other in support of the bigger movement. For instance, Lindsay is running, raising money for Campaign Zero every half mile. Jess is working with Stanford Alumni and the MS&E department to develop intentionality within spaces that have traditionally been racially oppressive. Share how you are contributing, and please leverage your finance connections to maximize corporate matching programs.

We pledge to be Stanford women not only in finance but also for change. We pledge to leverage our organization's platform to denounce systemic racism and contribute to the improvement of our nation's ingrained injustices. We commit to our members, our community, and our world. This email only scratches the surface of our efforts, and every voice amplifies the strength of such efforts. This is the beginning of an ongoing conversation around SWiF's engagement with these issues, and we invite all members of our community to help us shape what this engagement looks like and build this commitment.

Stanford Women in Finance pledges to learn, to grow, and to fight for true racial justice. We wish everyone safety and strength during this time, and together we will unite through leadership and empathy to effect change and justice.

Lastly, let us speak clearly and unequivocally in our statement: Black Lives Matter.

In Solidarity,
Stanford Women in Finance