

SWIL STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY



DEAR ALL,

The last few weeks have proven extremely traumatic for countless members of our own community, Stanford at large, and the nation as a whole. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery are but three names in a gruesome cycle of systemic violence, wherein Black Americans find themselves 2.5 times more likely to be killed by the police. The Zoom bombing of ASSU's People's Caucus as well as an increase in racially motivated hate crimes show how prevalent racial injustice is, even on Stanford's campus. While recalling these events can often be a harrowing experience, forgetting them too quickly is also an act of complacency, especially on behalf of white and non-Black POC allies.

We as the SWIL community want to affirm our solidarity with the Black community against police brutality, state-sanctioned murder and white supremacy. We affirm our support of Black Lives Matter and fighting all systemic injustices. We acknowledge the historic exclusivity of the feminist movement, which has failed to address/include/create space for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color), the LGBTQIA+ community, and (dis)abled folks. We strive to do better. We recognize that if we do not fully embrace intersectionality, we are complicit in oppression.

We are committed to contributing to anti-racist efforts by educating ourselves and speaking out against injustice. SWIL has and will continue to take a stand against such anti-Black and racist attacks on students and citizens alike. As an organization deeply rooted in feminist activism, we have been emphatic in our mission of keeping our movement intersectional and accounting for the double burden of discrimination faced by womxn of marginalized identities. This week, several of our members took personal initiatives to raise funds for organizations that aim to root out systemic violence and discrimination. Our Co-Founder and Social Justice Chairwomxn, Chloe Stoddard, single-handedly raised over \$800 for the Minnesota Freedom Fund through a fundraiser on Facebook. Meanwhile, our Public Relations Chairwomxn, Thi Vu, tied up with the Gates Foundation for a donation-matching scheme, raising a whopping \$72,000 for various other organizations. Our incoming Co-President Alisha Zhao also raised over \$10,000 in a similar donation-matching initiative. We commend our members for mobilizing their communities so swiftly and encourage others (who are able) to reach out to us and learn more about how they can do the same.

More than a statement of solidarity, this is a call to action – to our members, students, faculty, staff, and anyone else reading this. We have compiled a few resources for you to educate yourself/others, donate and rally (if able), and seek help (if needed).

