

CAPS Statement to the UR Community on Racial Injustice

We offer these reflections in light of the tragic events that have given way to civil unrest, protest and denunciation of anti-Blackness. We strive to support Spider communities across the globe.

The recent deliberate and brazen murders/lynchings of unarmed, Black citizens – George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Rayshard Brooks and Ahmaud Arbery – at the hands of those who took an oath to protect and serve them, and at the hands of other self-appointed militia have left us all struggling with some loss of community. Black parents are struggling to find the words to explain these actions to our children, hoping to sound sincere as we try simultaneously to convince them that they are safe – when that may not be true. Our pain is unbearable, and we're struggling with ways to express it. We're struggling with how best to support one another. Our allies are standing with us as we struggle to understand a lack of empathy. This lack of empathy has created a system where some who have unearned advantages act with cruelty, selfishness, and no remorse.

What we do understand is that it is often difficult for people to recognize a system with myriad inequities when they are the beneficiaries of all that system has to offer. Indeed, it is a privilege to not have to recognize that system. The pain and horror of these hideous events, and the very real, resulting sense of fear are exacerbated by the current pandemic. The coronavirus further exposes racial inequities, disproportionately affecting Black communities in a number of ways, among them, higher death rates.

As members of a learning community that fosters student growth guided by such values as the pursuit of knowledge, ethical engagement and responsible stewardship, the University of Richmond is fully committed to [combatting inequality and advancing inclusivity](#). There is no time for hopelessly sitting idly by in silence. We must stand firm and mobilize communities to confront and challenge racism when we see it and hear it. We must name racism and our society's flagrant disregard for the humanity of Black people. Finally, we must remain mindful of the power and strength of community and the nurturing relationships that develop as the result.

CAPS staff recognizes the differential impact of adverse events on Black students. We're here for you.