



BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO SCHOOL OF LAW

Statement and a Call to Action to Fight Against Racism and Police Brutality in the United States

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Like our brothers and sisters around this country and the world, we are disturbed and outraged at the continuous, senseless murders of and violence against Black people by the hands of law enforcement and white supremacists. For far too long, Blackness has been criminalized, and the events of the last few weeks have only reminded us of that fact. The killings of Black men, women, children, and trans lives demand that our voices are heard, and justice be served. As Desmond Tutu said: **"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."**

As Black law students, we are responsible for raising greater awareness of the needs of our community and advocating for the necessary changes to address those needs. The Black Law Student Association condemns all actions associated with the white supremacist agenda. This organization demands that federal, state, and local authorities swiftly act to make the change that the Black community has marched, fought, and died for over the last decades. This is also a call to action for members of the UB community to stand in solidarity with the Black Law Student Association, and the Black community. More specifically, we request the following:

1. Be a social engineer to the Civil Rights of Black people. This can be done by assessing the needs of the Black community and determine in what capacity you can assist; Supporting community organizers and organizations with legal support; Lobbying elected officials to push forward change; And, being intentionally active in the community in which you live.

2. Take action to demand justice for **George Floyd**, by signing and sharing the "Justice for George Floyd" petition on change.org; Make calls and write letters directly to District Attorney Mike Freeman and Mayor Jacob Frey demanding immediate justice, accountability, and reformation of the police department; **Text "FLOYD" to 55156.**

- Take action to demand justice for **Breonna Taylor** by signing and sharing the petition on standwithbre.com. Make calls and write letters directly to Commonwealth Attorney Tom Wine to immediately fire, arrest, and charge the officers responsible for Breonna's death. Write letters and apply public pressure to Kentucky State Legislature to ban "no-knock raids."
- Take action to demand justice for **Ahmaud Arbery** by continuing to apply public pressure until convictions for all three men responsible for Ahmaud's death are rendered. Visit runwithmaud.com for further details.
- Take action to demand justice for **the countless lives** lost to systemic racism and police brutality by contacting your local Representatives, Senators, and elected officials to prioritize and engage in justice initiatives. Most importantly, **vote**. Visit usa.gov/elected-officials and www.elections.ny.gov/votingregister.html for further details.

3. Donate to the Minnesota Freedom Fund; George Floyd Memorial Fund; The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and the Black Visions Collective.

These times also require our White allies to use their positions of influence to combat all forms of bigotry, racism, and biases whenever and wherever they see it. Systemic racism and injustice will not disappear if you choose to ignore it or remain silent. Silence is the new racism; it is a political stance and an endorsement of the status quo. "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Martin Luther King Jr.

Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Botham Jean, Atatiana Jefferson, Jonathan Ferrell, Renisha McBride, Stephon Clark, Jordan Edwards, Jordan Davis, Alton Sterling, Aiyana Jones, Mike Brown, Tamir Rice, Charleston9, Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Oscar Grant, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Corey Jones, John Crawford, Terrence Crutcher, Keith Scott, Clifford Glover, Claude Reese, Randy Evans, Sean Reed, Nina Pop, Yvonne Smallwood, Amadou Diallo, Walter Scott, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Christian Cooper, George Floyd, and countless others — **SAY THEIR NAMES!**