



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

The Law School
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Re: Hispanic Law Student Association - Statement on Racial Justice

Dear Notre Dame Law School,

One of Mexico's most famous lawyers and politicians, Benito Juarez, once said "Respect for the rights of others means peace." While simple to follow in theory, the application of promoting principles based in mutual respect and understanding have proven difficult for our democratic institutions to follow. These past few months have taught us that we have a long road ahead of us before we can truly realize the possibility of respecting the rights of our fellow Americans in order to promote the sort of peace that Benito envisioned. Hispanic and Latinx people have always known that the equal opportunity trumpeted by our government has been selectively implemented, and 2020 highlights the gross inequalities that still exist within the rule of law. From America's foundational sin against indigenous bodies, to the modern-day horrors perpetuated against immigrants along the southern border, inequality has been built into the very infrastructure of the United States judicial system.

September 15th marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, and with it comes the opportunity to reflect on our many contributions to America's cultural identity. Hispanic Americans and immigrants play a vital role in any conversation involving racial justice in the U.S., and our voices and experiences should help to shape the national dialogue surrounding these incredibly important issues. The Hispanic Law Student Association at Notre Dame is proud to stand with our fellow cultural organizations and diverse student groups as we work together to confront racial inequity in our country. We look forward to engaging in a campus-wide discussion that better helps us understand the role that systemic racism and implicit bias play in our collective consciousness, and we will continue to strive towards making Notre Dame a university that celebrates diversity and inclusion in academic spaces.

Sincerely,

The Hispanic Law Student Association at Notre Dame