



## **Balfour-Hesburgh Scholars Program Statement on Racial Justice September 2020**

The Balfour-Hesburgh Scholars Program and the Balfour Student Board grieve with our families, friends, and colleagues for the recent, tragic death of George Floyd, and the countless other Black lives that have been stolen through racial violence in this country:

Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Philando Castille, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Laquan McDonald, to name just a few. We hurt alongside our communities as we bear witness to the product of our country's failure to fully realize the full dignity and worth of every American, and to recognize that Black Lives, in every sense of the word, Matter.

We are here to walk alongside our brothers and sisters, to accompany them through the stark reality in which our young folks have been made to come of age. This is not, however, the world that we have to accept. We are dedicated to the intellectual engagement, leadership, and commitment to service necessary to dismantle systemic racism, classism, religious bigotry, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of inequality and injustice in all their forms, on our Notre Dame campus and in our larger communities.

Furthermore, we strive to recognize our own shortcomings, our personal prejudices, and learn from our mistakes in order to be our best selves. We strive to set an example as leaders who serve the common good in all of our communities, and advocate for those whose voices are often silenced.