

September 18, 2020

Re: Asian Law Students Association Statement on Racial Justice

To the Notre Dame community,

In light of recent events involving racial injustice in our country, the Asian Law Students Association wants to express, emphatically, that Black Lives Matter. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless other Black Americans have highlighted the deep, systemic failure of the rule of law in this country.

Within these past few months, we have all witnessed the systemic attacks on Black lives. Just as importantly, we are experiencing a modern-day civil rights movement that has sparked a nationwide discourse about racial injustice. The question now becomes how we, as a country, will move forward. Just as others have stated, it is not enough to “not be racist.” We must actively look to combat racism in all of its various manifestations and take proactive approaches to make our communities and localities more just. Engaging in campus-wide discussions about racial injustice is an important step towards shaping the larger, national conversation, but we must always remind ourselves that our impact is greatest within our own communities. Talk to your friends, family and acquaintances about racial injustice. Tell them what you have learned from those who have experienced it and help them realize the grave levels of injustice happening in our country on a daily basis. It is not enough to simply be aware of what is going on. We must be proactive about sharing what we know in order to educate others.

Racial injustice is not exclusive to the Black community. The Asian community, and every community of color, has experienced the insidious effects of implicit bias and prejudice. With the advent of the coronavirus, Asian American communities have been the recipient of racial animus and hostility at a continuously escalating rate. We have also witnessed the horrific treatment against immigrants and asylum seekers at ICE detention centers. Racial justice has far-reaching effects for every community of color and must be addressed at every level of organization. The Black community’s struggles are our struggles, and the Asian Law Students Association stands firm in our commitment to racial and social justice.

Sincerely,

The Asian Law Students Association