



Women's Coalition (WoCo)

Arizona State University

June 2, 2020

A statement from the ASU Women's Coalition on the racial injustices in our country and the murder of George Floyd.

We as the Women's Coalition of Arizona State University publicly condemn the racial injustices perpetrated by those in power against the Black community and other communities of color, and collectively mourn the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breana Taylor, Dion Johnson, Tony McDade and other Black men, women and children in our country.

On May 25th, 2020, George Floyd was murdered outside of a shop in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the hands of police. Over the course of this week, the death of this innocent man, along with dozens of others have ignited the call for justice in our country. We refuse to stand by as our Black siblings are murdered and those at fault walk free. Racism is a disease that plagues our country and has taken yet another innocent life. Enough is enough. Violence against Black, Indigenous and communities of color has no place in this country. Those in power have seemingly forgotten the value of a human life. The skin we walk in should not be a deciding factor in our right to live.

Sandra Bland, Atatiana Jefferson, Korryn Gaines, Agatha Felix, Rekia Boyd, Regis Korchinski Paquet, Miriam Carey, Kayla Moore, Natasha Mackenna, Tanisha Anderson. Black women are disproportionately impacted by violence yet are erased from the narrative and left out of the conversation they fought to begin. We, as a coalition, vow to say Her name. We vow to

continue implementing initiatives and programming that highlights the stories of Black women. We vow to protect and uplift their voices. Black women matter today, tomorrow, and always.

As a coalition made up of predominantly women of color, we recognize the privileges that we are afforded in representing the women throughout our four campuses. However, as minorities, we know all too well the horrific impact that violence, racism and injustice have with within our communities. Thus, in times like this, it is our responsibility to call for solidarity and accountability to those in power, and our peers, alike.

The mission of the Women's Coalition is to serve as a supportive and inclusive organization that encourages resilience in the pursuit of gender equity through advocacy, initiatives and programming. It is our duty to be vocal in the face of injustice and remain vigilant in the fight for equality. Our Black siblings are murdered at the hands of those tasked to serve and protect our communities at an alarming rate. In the words of Desmond Tutu, "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. *Silence is complicity.*" We call for immediate action in reforming the police forces in our country and are in favor of fundamental and foundational changes to combat institutionalized racism within our education systems. We demand that our institution, among others, calls out the systemic racism that students of color face within their classrooms, organizations and in unjust confrontations with police. If we truly are an institution that is "measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes", why have we not done more to support students of color across our four campuses?

The Women's Coalition denounces all forms of violence and racism against the Black community and stands in solidarity with those who have chosen to protest the racial injustice in this country over the last week. We call for all partner organizations and peers to support the movement by using their respective platforms to share accurate and vital information, donating

to funds and charities, highlighting the importance of amplifying black voices and listening to Black stories. Black lives matter today, tomorrow, and long after the momentum of this movement has passed. The Black community has been fighting long before this became a universal movement and it is our duty to stand alongside them in this revolution.

Sincerely,

The Women's Coalition at Arizona State University