



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

The following message is presented to you by Black Student Union, Black Intelligent Gentlemen, and Black Motivated Women in response to the murder of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by Minneapolis Police on May 25, 2020.

"We Stand With Each of You"

Dear Maverick,

Reverend Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister at Kings United Church of Christ in Missouri, said, "It is impossible to be unarmed when my Blackness is the weapon you fear."

For far too long we've had to witness the deaths of unarmed Black people. We've been told that when we go on a run, we're endangering lives (Ahmaud Arbery). We've been told that the toy guns, specifically made for children, make officers feel threatened (Tamir Rice). We've been told that even when we are in our home we aren't safe (Breonna Taylor). Even when we suffer from mental illnesses, we threaten people (Dontre Hamilton). The names of Black individuals who have lost their lives are endless, but we will not forget them.

Black Student Union (BSU), Black Intelligent Gentlemen (BIG), and Black Motivated Women (BMW) are appalled by not only the recent events that have resulted in the unjust murder of George Floyd but also the events that have haunted us since our ancestors were forcefully brought to "The Land of the Free". Our people have been murdered, beaten, persecuted, and tortured for over 400 years without end, and the time has come where we must rise and say "enough is enough".

We stand with each of you in your endeavors to make a better world for ALL of us, whether you are volunteering, peacefully protesting on the frontlines, advocating at your school and/or workplace, or on social media, we are with you and will continue to stand in solidarity with you. We will continue to stand until there is justice and there is no fear in being Black in America. We will continue to stand.

We will also send resources that are specifically for, but are not limited to, Black people in a separate email. In the meantime, we would like to inform everyone that the NAACP does have a chapter on campus if any students are interested in helping to make a difference on MNSU's campus in the Fall.

If there is anything that you feel our groups can do to help you now or in the future, please don't hesitate to reach out to us via our organization's email addresses that are listed below.

Please take care of yourself and be safe!

Sincerely,

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