



STATEMENT ON ANTI-BLACK VIOLENCE

On May 25th, 2020, a Black man named George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. On May 27th, 2020, an Afro-Indigenous Woman named Regis Korchinski-Paquet was pushed to her death by a police officer in Toronto, Ontario. These are not isolated incidents, nor are they accidental deaths. They are two very clear examples of the rampant anti-Black racism that exists amongst our societies and are prevalent in our streets, our campuses, at our dinner tables, the music we listen to, the media we consume, and every other facet of our lives.

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, we are reminded of the deeply-rooted institutional nature of anti-Blackness. We are reminded that despite the common false narrative that “racism doesn’t exist” - Indigenous, Black, and Racialized bodies experience the impacts of it on a daily basis. It’s important to recognize that such narratives and harmful social mythologies are a disservice to the experiences of Black, Indigenous, and Racialized people and are prevalent both in Canada and the United States. They are a disservice to the lives that have been lost at the hands of police brutality and white supremacy. Colonial institutions have made it possible to constantly benefit from Black bodies, intelligence, finances, and labour while simultaneously implementing policies that are blatantly racist and do not protect Black or marginalized people.

It is important to recognize that policing is an inherently violent and racist institution. The origin of armed police forces is a colonial one - they were created to protect the institutions of colonialism, white supremacy, and capitalism. From its US roots as a slave patrol, and its Canadian roots as an institution created to suppress and control Indigenous people - the very nature of policing serves to maintain racial inequality. It’s evident that not much has changed - the suppression of workers and the tight surveillance and micromanagement of Black/ brown lives continues to be at the centre of policing

via carding policies, brutal police violence, and the overrepresentation of Black and Indigenous bodies in the prison system. These colonial systems have become a means to continue to divide and segregate with the intention to conquer and dominate marginalized identities. While some may be inclined to assert the narrative that police exist to serve & protect - we pose the question: who exactly are they protecting? Because it’s clear that it is not Black, Indigenous, or Racialized lives.

It is our collective responsibility to work to dismantle the racist, colonial, white supremacist institutions that continue to oppress marginalized bodies. White supremacy impacts all Black, Indigenous, and Racialized lives in clear and distinct ways - while some experiences overlap, it’s important as Racialized bodies to understand the inherent differences in treatment, as well as acknowledge the anti-Blackness that also exists within our communities. It’s time for us to come together as racialized communities in our pursuit of justice - it is only through our collective solidarity that we can work towards our collective liberation. To all white and Non-Black Racialised folks, we encourage you to seek out resources to better understand the impacts of colonialism and white supremacy, and we encourage you to speak out and take action to support the Black community. This is not simply an American problem - it is happening in our streets, our campuses, at our dinner tables, in our group chats and backyards, and every facet of our lives. The time to act and demand justice is now. Our silence is complicity.

The York Federation of Students would like to reaffirm our commitment to working and supporting Black students and the Black community to fight against anti-Blackness and racism. It is an incredibly heavy and painful time, and if any students are in need of support, feel free to access our wellness services or reach out. Black lives matter now and always will.



We would also like to remember the following incomplete list* of names of Black, Indigenous, and Racialized bodies that have died at the hands of police brutality both in Canada and in the United States.

George Floyd
Breonna Taylor
Ahmaud Arbery
Tamir Rice
Trayvon Martin
Oscar Grant
Eric Garner
Philando Castile
Samuel Dubose
Sandra Bland
Walter Scott
Terrence Crutch
Jason Collins
Regis Korchinski-Paquet
Eishia Hudson
D'Andre Campbell
Randy Cochrane
Sean Thompson
Machuar Madut
Greg Ritchie
Chad Williams
Jaskamal Singh Lail
Nicholas Gibbs
Olando Brown
Josephine Pelletier
Brydon Whitstone
Pierre Coriolan
Abdirahman Abdi
Bony Jean-Pierre
Kwasi Skene-Peters
Andrew Loku
Abdurahman Ibrahim Hassan
René Gallant
Marc Ekamba-Boekwa
Phuong Na (Tony) Du
Jermaine Carby
Nicholas Thorne-Belance
Alain Magloire

Ian Pryce
Sammy Yatim
Emmett Till

We would also like to provide folks with a list of resources and ways to engage as allies and actively support the Black community:

RESOURCES

<http://yubsa.com>
<https://undocublack.org/know-your-rights>
<https://www.naacpldf.org/covid-19/>
<https://m4bl.org>
<https://secure.everyaction.com/zae4prEeKESH-By0MKXTIcQ2>

DONATIONS

Justice for Regis organized by Renee Beals

https://www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-regis?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/cggys2-justice-for-regis>

https://www.change.org/p/justice-for-regis-korchinski-paquet?recruiter=1052678673&recruited_by_id=3379c9b0-67c1-11ea-ada4-a51ce4e18367

George Floyd

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd>

https://www.change.org/p/mayor-jacob-frey-justice-for-george-floyd/psf/promote_or_share?source_location=petition_show

<https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/>

For more information, or to raise questions, please contact: Azinwi Kien Saningong at president@yfs.ca

*https://www.pyriscence.ca/home/2020/5/29/cdnpolice?fbclid=IwAR2DsglhSFAo4O2BoQAAZvOoNIBo9_XFia7fRWHzRHQtFfCijMAIfIE_hY