



## **Public Statement Regarding the Murder of George Floyd and Nationwide Protests**

**May 31, 2020**

Dear Fellow Members and Students,

The officer board of the Filipino Students Association would like to make it known that we **WILL NOT** tolerate the dismissal of the systematic mistreatment and neglect of Black Americans. We are an organization that prides itself on our commitment to promote **complete solidarity, support, and hope for our future as minorities in America**. There is absolutely no room for silence. We understand that in a nation who has a history of racism, there will forever be unrest among us until people see it and call it out for what it is.

On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by Minneapolis police officer Derek Michael Chauvin and our organization grieves his unjust death as we resonate with the current national sentiment of revulsion and resistance to accept this treatment any longer. Along with the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor that have recently gained attention, it is ludicrous that the lives of unarmed Black men, women, and children are still being disregarded in this day and age by the very institutions that were put into place to supposedly protect them.

This wasn't the first time a Black man pleaded "I can't breathe" for his life, it wasn't the first time a Black woman was killed for nothing and it certainly wasn't the first time a Black man was hunted and gunned down by racist, White men. Have you noticed the trend? We have witnessed the tragic and discriminatory murders of Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, and so many more that have either made it to the news or remained in the dark. The continuation and normalization of violence against unarmed Black individuals cannot continue and we simply **REFUSE** to sit here and pretend that everything is okay as it does.

The Filipino Students Association stands firmly and openly with the Black Lives Matter movement as well as the many demonstrations around the nation with whom we share the same sentiment. We also stand proudly with the Black community at UT and would like to extend our hand, **in true allyship** to each and every one of you and demand complete justice that goes beyond just the signing of a petition and the arrests of these racist offenders, but instead ensures that your voices be heard, loud and clear.

I would like to end this letter off with my own personal sentiment as I write this on behalf of my officers and my organization. I am **PROUD** of my blackness and I will continue to represent and comfort my brothers and sisters as we deal with these injustices and fight for racial equity. I will make sure FSA

remains a welcoming place for our Black members. I, along with my co-president and officer board, will ensure that our members are educated and informed about what allyship really means as well as how to live a life of anti-racism instead of perpetuating the colorist mindsets and covert racism that exists so heavily within the Asian community. **Staying silent is staying neutral and staying neutral is taking the side of the oppressor.** This will be our mission and we won't stop until it is achieved. I will continue to stand with you until the day I die and today, everyone will know that the Filipino Students Association stands with you, forever and always.

Mahals,

*Tavi Singleton*♥

on behalf of the 20-21 Officer Board.

We are currently planning on taking action and encourage you all to join us as leaders of change. If you have any questions, or would like to collaborate with us in these efforts, please feel free to contact us.

Tavina Singleton & Angela Uy  
UT Filipino Students Association Co-Presidents 2020-2021  
[damiasing@gmail.com](mailto:damiasing@gmail.com)  
[gabrielleangela.uy@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielleangela.uy@gmail.com)