

Statements from Organizations

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - [Statement](#)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - [Statement](#)

Coalition of Asian American Leaders - [Statement](#)

CUNY Asian American Research Institute -- [Statement](#)

Densho - [Statement](#)

Freedom, Inc. - [Statement](#)

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum - [Statement](#)

Southeast East Asian Resource Action Center - [Statement](#)

Tsuru for Solidary - [Statement](#)

The Association for Asian American Studies:

The Association for Asian American Studies unites in solidarity with our Black family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and co-workers to call for an immediate end to anti-Black racism and the killing of Black people. We are an organization committed to social justice, intersectional analysis, and global human rights. Our fight against anti-Asian pandemic racism is rooted in a common struggle against White supremacy. The recent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and George Floyd propel us to state, clearly and definitively, that Black lives matter and that we must abolish the militarized police state in which anti-Black racism is embedded. To end global anti-Black racism, we must fight racism in our local communities and educate ourselves and others about the rich history of Black Americans and support, validate, and value Black lives now and always.

Asian American Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington:

"The Indiana University's Asian American Studies Program calls for the urgent undoing of our country's deeply entrenched habits of criminalizing, incarcerating, and murdering Black people. We grieve with the families and communities of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Dreasjon Reed, McHale Rose, David McAtee, Tony McDade, Chris Beaty, Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Philando Castile, Trayvon Martin, Akai Gurley, and countless other Black individuals who have died as a result of the United States' violent, foundational machinery of white supremacy.

Rightful change demands long-term commitments to studying, thinking, and acting ethically. The good news is that so many of our Black sisters and brothers have already done the hard work of analyzing the causes and outcomes of police violence as well as workable solutions. As students, teachers, and researchers, we must learn from them and support their ongoing efforts to fashion social, cultural, political, and economic systems that nourish rather than destroy Black life. This includes sharing our money, time, and talent to causes that actively address state violence against Black people. It means overhauling policing apparatuses at local, state, and federal levels. And it begs a rigorous understanding of the complicity of Asian Americans in reproducing the anti-black racism that fuels white supremacy."

Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators (AANATE):

“The Steering Committee of the Association of Asian/North American Theological Educators (AANATE), denounces the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Ahmaud Arbery, Sean Reed, David McAtee, James Scurlock, and too many others. These murders are not only tragedies; these are atrocities.

AANATE is an organization that seeks to develop and promote Asian/North American scholarship and leadership in theological education. We can only fulfill our mission through coalition-building across communities dedicated to dismantling systemic injustice. Therefore, we condemn the insidious white supremacy woven into the fabric of the United States of America. We condemn the anti-Blackness established and perpetuated through systems and structures in both national and local governments, houses of worship, and institutions of theological education. We condemn the way white supremacy and anti-Blackness work its way into academe, through tokenism, bias, dehumanizing disregard, inequitable labor, and the erasure of Blackness that occurs across scholarship and in classrooms. We condemn the rampant police brutality in the United States that continues to extinguish the lives of Black mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters, and denies Black people everywhere their fundamental freedoms.

As an association of Asian and Asian North American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American (APIDA) theological educators, we pledge solidarity with our Black colleagues and their communities. We commit to amplifying their concerns, scholarship, and movements. We commit to the crucial work of anti-racist scholarship, teaching, learning, and organizing for the flourishing Black lives. White-dominant, white-normative paradigms in the wider culture and in academic discourse, aim to conflate and diffuse the concerns of particular racial/ethnic minoritized people, leading to harmful triangulation and competition. We recognize and resist such divisive forces and commit to tuning ourselves to the particularities of Black struggle and Black pain at this moment.

We understand that our collective commitments to embodied justice require that we also exorcise anti-Blackness from within our broader Asian and APIDA community. For this reason, we ask Asian and APIDA theological educators to resist silent complicity and to speak up loudly and clearly against anti-Blackness in all forms. Let us resist the inherently racist straightjacket imposed upon Asian and APIDA individuals and communities, which reinforces big lies--lies that say our voices are muted or one-noted, our resistance movements non-existent, and our critical agency suspect.

We remember and understand our varied and painful histories and our current realities on this stolen soil. The struggle of Asian and APIDA people against empire dovetails with the history and struggles of Black communities in the fight against death-dealing white supremacy. Hear us when we say, Black lives matter. Black lives must matter, here and everywhere, if we are to

abolish oppression and become rooted together in spaces of freedom. We invite our partners to join us in this faithful work.”

Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center:

“Indigenous Roots and [Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli](#) extends its deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of George Floyd. We grieve alongside our African American relatives experiencing this tremendous pain of loss committed at the hands of law enforcement. We send our prayers, love and tonal (energy) to the beloved family and friends to everyone affected by this senseless tragedy. We hope for comfort, solace, and solidarity during this painful time as we collectively strategize how to dismantle white supremacy embedded in these systems together with you.

We are not unfamiliar with the profound pain you carry inside when a beloved community member is murdered as a result of an unjust system of law enforcement carrying out a violent act. The experiences and shared pain bridge our communities across cultures, marking the historic trauma in each of our generations. If you are a person of color or indigenous you understand this wretched shared experience.

In this time of struggle, we focus on what ties us together. Our ties begin with our ancestors, our deep indigenous roots, whether in the Americas or Africa. Displaced from our lands, we plant our culture’s resistance and resilience, and the ability to seek justice in horrific times. We understand that our strength as politically and socially marginalized people lies in our ability to unite and organize ourselves.

We, Indigenous Roots and Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli, have a duty as leaders in the community to support one another. We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter Minnesota and Twin Cities, Racial Justice Network, Justice for Cordale Handy, Roots and Restore, Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB), NAACP Mpls, Black Visions Collective and all the brave Black leaders and organizers to express our outrage and public grief. We look to our ancestral teachings, including danza, to express our highest calling and to resist injustice. We use arts and culture to heal ourselves and our community from the cycle of trauma we continue to endure. The greater community should understand that our danza is never a performance for us. Rather, danza is a kinetic offering and an act of gratitude for everything and everyone that surrounds us.”

East Side Freedom Library:

“Korean Resource Center Stands with Floyd!

[#BlackLivesMatter](#)

Because of what has happened in Minneapolis with the killing of George Floyd at the hands of officers with records of complaints for improper use of force, the KRC’s work will expand to include educating our community about the problem of racism in American society. The KRC condemns the use of deadly force, such as suffocating a person, when they are unarmed. The

KRC supports the family and community in Minneapolis who have been trying to make change in the local police agency because of the unfair and violent policing that has hurt many other African-American families. The officer who placed his knee into the neck of Floyd had two prior complaints of excessive force use with no consequence. Among police officer Thao has had six excessive force complaints filed with no discipline.

In 1992, mainstream media often highlighted conflicts between Koreans and African-Americans. It was a diversionary tactic, taking attention away from institutional problems such as police brutality, recession, lack of affordable housing, as well as lack of jobs and economic opportunity. In 2020, the media is now highlighting the racial conflict once more, diverting attention from real problems with systemic racism. The Korean Resource Center urges all members of our community to learn more about the history of slavery, racial discrimination, and the use of deadly force against minorities - mostly African-Americans. Self education, self-awareness, and self-determination are required today, now more than ever. We recognize that the vast majority of law enforcement are not like the men we see in videotaped events like the Floyd incident; however, we also recognize there is a culture in policing that punishes anyone who speaks out about problems within any policing agency. It is that culture that must be changed.

KRC Board Chair Angela Oh stated:

"Korean Resource Center stands with other AAPI groups clearly stating the death of George Floyd was another example of how institutional racism contaminated us all. We call for justice on behalf of the family of Mr. Floyd and accountability from involved officers, including Thao."

KUNDIMAN

Many of us are experiencing deeply the stress and losses of this time: the disease, fear, heightened financial hardships, and systemic failures as revealed by this pandemic, which already disproportionately impacts BIPOC in myriad ways. And now the terrible reminders of how white supremacy in all its forms, its perpetrators and apologists, continue to persecute and murder Black people.

We grieve and rage for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, David McAtee, Nina Pop, and for all the lives lost to this violence.

Kundiman was inspired by and modeled after the transformative joy and power of [Cave Canem](#), an organization for Black poets. Our civil rights movements, our cultural and art movements, are intertwined with one another. This has been said so many times, but it is true—none of us are free, until we all are free. Black lives matter, and always have.

As writers, we affect the way readers think and feel. We ask of you, of ourselves, and our communities: How will we continue to step into our power together?

For Black folks, we wanted to put forth a few wellness resources we've recently come across that were specifically made by and for Black communities, in case any are helpful.

- [The Nap Ministry](#): Rest as Resistance and Reparations
- [BEAM](#) (Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective)
- [Black Girl in Om](#): A meditation recording for Black Girls
- [Liberate Meditation](#): Meditation app for Black, Indigenous, People of Color
- [Ethel's Club](#): In the Name of Freedom: A Gathering For Black Healing on June 19th

For those of us who are non-Black Asian Americans and people of color: It's clear that we must continue talking about anti-Blackness with our peers. We write this while invoking the powerful history of Asian Americans fighting and creating alongside Black people. We should voice outrage during spikes of anti-Asian sentiment, and act in remembrance of past harms done to our community; we must also resist and fight back on the relentless brutality Black folks face in this country every day.

Here are some resources on furthering anti-racist work:

- [Letters for Black Lives](#): Templates to discuss anti-blackness to families
- [Teaching for Black Lives](#): Curriculum and teaching resources
- [#GetFreeWrites](#): List of writing prompts on police brutality and racist violence by the Dark Noise Collective

For suggestions on where to donate, we suggest looking at the [National Resource List](#). We have compiled a few resources on our website [here](#), and we welcome additional resources to add to the list.

We express much gratitude to Michelle Lin for her help in compiling these resources.

Let's talk. Let's write. Let's stand in solidarity with those who need it. There is still so much work to be done, and we have faith that we will do it.

With radical love and in solidarity,

Kundiman



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2020

Reference: [Sige!](#)
sige.lgbtq@gmail.com

END POLICE AND STATE VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE: Sige!
LGBTQIA+ Filipinos Solidarity Statement



Photos from the [New York Times](#) and [Human Rights Campaign](#)

Sige! LGBTQIA+ Filipinos, a New York City-based grassroots community organization, rises in solidarity with the Minneapolis Uprising against the murder of George Floyd and an entire political system built on unrelenting police and state violence against Black people.

We honor the lives of those who have been brutally murdered by the racist state, just in the past few weeks:

Nina Pop should be alive.

George Floyd should be alive.

Breonna Taylor should be alive.

Tony McDade should be alive.

Ahmaud Arbery should be alive.

But they are not.

There is no end to the record of white supremacist brutality. And there is no end to our grief.

There is also no end to our struggle for LIFE.

Sige! honors, protects, and commits to building on the legacy of Black-Filipinx solidarity.

As the US military committed genocide in the Philippines during the Philippine American War, raping and killing “anyone over ten” to build its global Empire at the turn of the 20th century, Black US soldiers defected in record numbers to support the Philippine resistance against US colonialism.

Black soldiers recognized the interconnectedness of Black and Filipinx struggles against white supremacy and US colonialism then. In turn, Filipinx resistance movements in the United States have historically collaborated with and built on the wisdom of Black liberation movements. We recognize that we have a common enemy in the system that enacts violence on Black people in particularly heinous ways. As committed allies, we follow the lead of Black movements fighting for their liberation from a centuries-long legacy of colonial and racial oppression.

June is Pride month. As a Queer liberationist organization, we remind you that “Pride was a Riot.”

As cars and buildings burn in Minneapolis and dozens of other cities across the United States, we remember that the 1969 Stonewall Uprising was instigated by a police raid that sparked a riot. Honoring the legacies of Sylvia Rivera, Marsha P. Johnson, and all those who rose to resist state violence includes asserting the validity, effectiveness, and [long history of riots as political strategy](#).

Sige! calls on all Filipinx and Filipinx American communities to confront anti-Blackness in our families, worlds and lives.

We recognize anti-Blackness as rooted in global racial capitalism, colorism and centuries of colonialism and US cultural hegemony. Anti-Blackness only protects white power. Anti-Blackness has never protected us.

Sige! is in Solidarity with the Black Community!

We witness the pain and anger of the Black community who, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, have been overrepresented among the record numbers of infections and deaths in the U.S. We witness the overwhelming economic crisis that the Black community is suffering from historic and systemic racism, exacerbated by COVID-19.

The time has always been now to be in solidarity with Black liberation. We amplify the demands of the Black community in Minneapolis: defund and abolish the police! Fund healthcare, education, housing, and the people's basic human rights! Build systems of community care that do not rely on police!

We link our struggles together. Fight the capitalist system that will always neglect and murder Black people, indigenous people, people of color, LGBTQIA+ people, immigrants, and other oppressed peoples to protect private property and profits for the wealthy few.

No Justice, No Peace! Black Trans Lives Matter! Black Lives Matter!

#BlackLivesMatters #BlackTransLivesMatters #BlackLiberationMatters #Justice4GeorgeFloyd
#Filipinos4BlackLives

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CENTER FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEDIA (CAAM)

The images of the past week—the unwarranted death of an African American man and fellow citizen, and the justified demonstrations, and civic uprisings—fill us with sadness and anger. But what is worse is how we have seen them many times before, most recently in the shootings of Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. We are reminded of the beating of Rodney King and the resulting frustration and anger in Los Angeles in 1992. This history goes back hundreds of years, to the earliest days of this nation, but in recent years, as brutalities have been captured on camera, we cannot ignore them. We're called to bear witness to the grim reality of this country's failure, yet again, to respect and protect Black lives.

Already, Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our small businesses are struggling, our communities have higher rates of infection, and our family members are disproportionately on the front lines in essential jobs. Early on in the crisis, racist and xenophobic stigmatization resulted in the increase of anti-Asian violence. We write this knowing that other communities of color are hurting badly from the pandemic. We recognize that pain will continue to be there for Asian communities. Yet as we care for each other, we cannot let our pain distract us from George Floyd's life and the demands for justice.

Some of our families have been here for generations and have witnessed injustices against our Black neighbors. Others of us are immigrants and refugees to the U.S.; our relatives may not always be aware of the full extent of the nation's history, but we have inherited its legacy. Asian Americans have profoundly benefited from Black freedom struggles that paved the way for our own fights for equal treatment in America. In this moment, it is important that we raise our voices to say that #BlackLivesMatter.

As an organization whose mission is to create and present media that reflects the perspective of marginalized communities, CAAM has a responsibility to be part of the change. We are committed to doing the work within our own community, with our partners in the [National Multicultural Alliance](#) (NMCA), as well as with the broadest possible audiences. With this in mind, we are planning programs in the upcoming months within our own community to raise awareness of the Black experience, as well as helping Asian Americans better understand U.S. history and civics, such as continuing events and education based on our *Asian Americans* documentary series and the 2020 elections. In keeping with our mission of bringing stories to light, we will continue to uplift films that illuminate the nuances of Asian Americans and other communities of color. Just as images of injustice can bring outrage and pain, images of humanity can create empathy and understanding.

While we mourn George Floyd and countless other Black lives lost, my hope is that we can draw upon our community's shared expertise, creativity, and energy to support one another in the continuation of this work—not just this week or this year, but every day going forward, together.

In solidarity,



Stephen Gong

CAAM Executive Director

Statements from Individuals

Tommy Chang, former Boston Public Schools Superintendent - [Statement](#)

Other Resources

[Black and Asian-American Feminist Solidarities - A Reading List](#)

[George Floyd, Tou Thao, and the Parable of Our Times](#)