

Copy of KSUnited letter sent to President Whitten and others

From: **The People** <weuniteksu@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 9, 2020 at 8:03 AM

Subject: Racism at KSU, KSUnited Demands

To: Dr. Pamela Whitten, administration, ODI, faculty, staff

Given Dr. Whitten's [recent statement](#) that there is no room for the “existence of or the tolerance for” racism at Kennesaw State University, KSUnited would like to reiterate our list of demands for the university as ways to address institutional racism at KSU. This letter and the following demands are a show of solidarity both to the protests of the killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, and countless other Black people as well as a reminder to the administration of KSU. KSUnited remains dedicated to bringing to light the racism that is pervasive within the community of Kennesaw State. KSUnited continues to advocate that this culture of racism be addressed in part through policy changes. For about a decade now, we have consistently reiterated our list of demands to address these issues. Numerous organizations and students have advocated for these demands since 2010, yet administration after administration — including the current one under Dr. Whitten — have repeatedly performed inadequately in their response. We are eager to see that change in the days, weeks, and months ahead as we all do better to envision and enact an anti-racist world.

Even in the most recent semester, several student organizations at Kennesaw State University including KSUnited and Young Democrats of KSU were targeted simultaneously with racist, homophobic, and sexual harassment. These threats were made to the lives and wellbeing of some of the members in these organizations and compromised the main form of communication for these RSOs on campus. These attacks included references to Hitler, ethnic cleansing, burning crosses, and references to Nazi propaganda used in deep-online white supremacist culture. To encourage investigation and prompt action towards these attacks, as a coalition, these organizations reported the incident with adequate evidence. The evidence even included suspected individuals who were also students at KSU. However, after over 4 months since this incident, the organizations were left in the dark after speaking to the Office of Institutional Equity and Office of Diversity and Inclusion. To date, this incident has not been resolved and no action has been taken against these students.

During the past week of nationwide protests, KSUnited was targeted yet again with graphic and violent racist images demonstrating the deeply embedded culture of white supremacy at KSU and creating a hostile environment for Black students. These images are provided as part of this letter.

Here are our demands:

I. Follow through with the Anti-Racism Education Center. After the acquisition of the land once owned by a Georgian author Corra Harris who defended the horrific lynching of a Black man, Sam Hose, Kennesaw State University failed to follow through with the establishment of the Anti-racism Education Center. After former attempts made in 2010 and 2015, we are demanding this again to emphasize the importance of such a resource, which could educate the campus community on the history and legacy of racism and anti-racism strategies in order to improve the culture at KSU.

II. Require mandatory anti-racist training for all members of campus including faculty, staff, students, fraternities, and sororities.

III. Add strict repercussions and sanctions to the policy for offenders of racist, discriminatory or hostile actions. By enforcing consequences, the policy will hold students, faculty, and staff accountable for their actions and reduce the likelihood of such incidents.

IV. Improve the Office of Institutional Equity. By investing in and improving the functions of this office, Kennesaw State University will be better equipped to ensure justice and support victims. The current process disproportionately ends with a lack of resolution or accountability for the perpetrators.

V. Improve the Rapid Response policy. Kennesaw State University has fallen short of providing campus members and students awareness of incidents and transparency about outcomes in the interest of protection and safety of the campus community.

We hope that Dr. Whitten and the administration at KSU will see these demands as actionable items to fulfill the statement that there is no room for racism at KSU.

In addition to the signees below the Kennesaw State University chapter of United Campus Workers of Georgia have shown support for KSUnited's demands in a statement they made on anti-racist actions: "We call for immediate attention to the KSUnited demands, which take on added urgency in the current moment. In particular, KSUnited has called for an anti-racism center that would educate the campus community on the history and legacy of racism and anti-racism strategies. We join with KSUnited in insisting this demand, which was first made 10 years ago, be met now."

Therefore we ask, what was the true intention of Dr. Whitten's statement? Did it emphasize a moment of long-overdue acknowledgement that these issues around the world and within our campus must finally be met? Or was it merely an opportunistic statement vaguely chastising the current injustices that many face while ignoring the growing issues that have not been solved within the university itself? We may remember a Black student was threatened to be lynched on campus last year, with the investigation concluding the incident did not constitute creation of a hostile environment because the victim continued attending class.

How can you ignore demands like those that have repeatedly been made by KSUnited while claiming to be against racism, the central issue at the heart of our demands? We ask that Dr. Whitten and her administration stand by the statement given and commit to decisive action

towards mending the issues not only in our community but on our campus as well. We look forward to working with the administration to see these actions be implemented.

In solidarity with protesters locally, across the country, and the world,

KSUnited

Madison Potts, KSU NAACP President

Young Democrats of KSU

Young Democratic Socialists of America at KSU

Students for Justice in Palestine at KSU

United Campus Workers of Georgia at KSU

Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Cobb County

Alliance for Black Lives

Students for Justice in Palestine at Georgia State

Students for Justice in Palestine at Emory University

Young Democratic Socialists of America at GA Tech

Metro Atlanta Democratic Socialists of America

Georgia Alliance for Social Justice

Street Groomers

National Action Network of Clayton County

La Gente de Cobb

Council on American-Islamic Relations Georgia

Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition

International Action Center

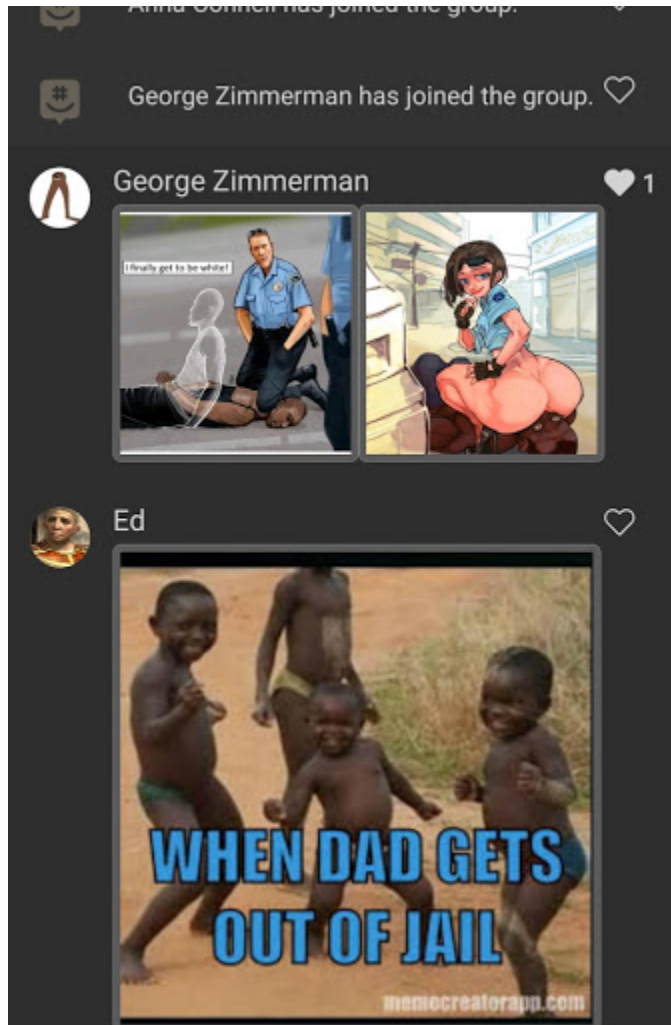
Justice for All Coalition

Khalid Kamau, City Councilman of City of South Fulton

Gerald Griggs, Civil Rights Attorney, Atlanta NAACP

Marcus Coleman, Activist, #SavingOurSelves

The following are the disturbing images posted in our groupchat this past week:







George Zimmerman

Thursday, Jun 4, 1:13 AM



3



Anna Connell



1

When you're barbecuing and the charcoal runs away



Ed



**THIS WOULD BE
RACIST**

**IF BLACK PEOPLE COULD
READ**



KSUnited! -
Assembly



Cock Nibbler has joined the group.



Cock Nibbler

♥ 1



Mckenzie Quigley

Is anyone protesting in Atlanta today?



Cock Nibbler

im protesting people being black



1

XBOX 360

XBOX
LIVE

