

Subject line: Urgent - Responding to the Black Lives Matter Movement

Dear **(Name of your head of department)**,

My name is **(Your name)** and I am a **(Year and course)**. I am writing to you with the hope that the **(Your department)** department will take the time to adequately address the recent murder of George Floyd and the broader Black Lives Matter movement.

Education is the foundation on which a society is built and changes to the curriculum are invaluable when trying to achieve long-term and large-scale change. The murder of George Floyd is a reminder of the ways in which racist ideas and systems have infected large portions of society, both in the United States and here in the UK. For too long, racism has remained largely unchallenged in academia, the effects of which are felt to date.

You have a responsibility to work in the best interests of your students. This is a responsibility particularly relevant to the members of your department who are a part of marginalised groups. Their safety and interests are compromised by our cultural and societal systems. Universities also have an intellectual responsibility to highlight incomplete analyses and misguided views of race and social justice. As educators, you have the power to inform on a large scale and are capable of bringing about lasting progress.

I urge you to provide resources to each of your students pertaining to the anti-racism movement, sent directly to their email inboxes, in order to encourage personal anti-racist education and recognition of societal flaws which often go overlooked. UK universities are home to some of the leading academics in the fields of Black history and race relations, and it is your duty to utilise this knowledge.

(PLEASE INSERT YOUR OWN DEMANDS)

Even small changes in education have the potential to create large waves further down the line. In the future, I want to be able to say that my department contributed to a wave of positive change - I hope you feel the same.

Best wishes,

(Your name)