



In some ways, it is unique to be Black in America at this present moment. In other ways, it is oddly, and unfortunately, familiar. The murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis police is only the most recent act of blatant and overt racism by the very institution meant to protect and serve our communities. What makes these instances of racism more traumatic is the fact that it could have been any one of us or our family members. We are not far removed from these happenings. Instead, we see them, we feel them, and we live them every day.

For these reasons, we, the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) at Chicago-Kent College of Law, denounce any and all instances of racism and brutality targeted at Black people and our communities. Additionally, we stand in solidarity with the families of victims of racially motivated attacks, both recent and past. Finally, we stand with all of those actively working to combat and dismantle the racist and oppressive infrastructure within which we are forced to exist.

We hope that the members of the larger Chicago-Kent community will not only empathize with Black people and our communities, but will do their part to challenge racist institutions, practices, and ideologies. We implore them to educate themselves and seek out resources that will help them to be better allies. Lastly, we ask them to be considerate of the pain and grief many Black people and are experiencing and do their part to support us and our communities by acknowledging their privilege and using it to advocate for and stand with the Black community. A link to resources describing ways to support can be found below.

Angela Davis once said, "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change . . . I'm changing the things I cannot accept." Please keep this quote in mind when thinking about the ways in which you can work to dismantle the systems that work against Black people and our communities. Instead of fearing your privilege, acknowledge it, and do your part to save the lives of people who look like us.

To those standing in solidarity with us and working on the behalf of Black communities, we sincerely thank you. We ask that you continue to do so as we navigate through these tough times in pursuit of a better, more just system and society.

We deserve to be seen. We deserve to be heard. We deserve to live.
Sincerely,

Micah McClendon
President, Chicago-Kent Black Law Students Association

<https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>