



848 William Pitt Union  
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## **Statement on the Murder of George Floyd and Solidarity with Black Students**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*CW: police violence*

The University of Pittsburgh's Student Government Board stands firmly in solidarity with Black students and the Black community during this difficult time. The recent murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Dion Johnson, and George Floyd reveal, yet again, the racial injustices that are deeply ingrained in the systems and structures of American society. As representatives of the undergraduate student body, SGB acknowledges the frustration, pain, fear, and exhaustion that our entire community – particularly, Black students, staff, and faculty – are experiencing at this moment. As we struggle to respond to the injustices around us, we must recognize the millions of Americans who are currently grieving, while also recognizing the sources of privilege and power which led us to the widespread police violence and white supremacy unfolding before us.

As an institution of higher learning that prides itself on fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment, it is vital that the University of Pittsburgh commits to supporting and addressing the concerns of all members of our community, especially Black students, staff, and faculty. This is a moment that calls for using the University's expertise and resources to follow the lead of those most affected by police violence, white supremacy, and injustice.

Unfortunately, Pittsburgh is no stranger to police brutality. The recent murders of Black Americans at the hands of law enforcement bring back painful, vivid memories of Antwon Rose II, who was [murdered by police](#) less than two years ago. Antwon was one of the nearly [1,100 Black Americans](#) who are murdered by police each year. If we truly believe that Black Lives Matter, we must unequivocally declare that this reality is unacceptable. We can and we must do better.

Here at Pitt – a predominantly white institution composed of 71% white undergraduate students and only 6% Black undergraduate students – it is imperative to reflect on the power and privilege that many of us hold. [White privilege](#) – commonly defined as a “web of institutional and cultural preferential treatment and exemption from racial and national oppression” – is of particular concern. Thus, we must hold ourselves and one another accountable for our words, thoughts, and actions. We must be open to having difficult discussions about race, oppression, privilege, and bias. It is simply not enough to voice our outrage. Words of support and solidarity are a good first step; however, as a premier institution, the University of Pittsburgh has a duty to make real,



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effective change in the face of social injustice. As the elected representatives of students, it is our duty as SGB to help lead that charge and to lead it boldly.

Going forward, SGB will continue to support and listen to our peers as they voice their concerns. We are committed to elevating the voices of individuals and organizations, like our Black Action Society, who are dedicated to fighting back against racism and injustice on our campus and in our community. As SGB continues making plans for tangible actions to make our campus and our country safer for Black individuals, we are actively seeking the input of students – particularly Black students – so that we can take inclusive, meaningful, and just action. If you have ideas or feedback as to what we should be investing our time and energy in right now, please visit [sgb.pitt.edu/fixitpitt/](https://sgb.pitt.edu/fixitpitt/) to submit your recommendations.

SGB also strongly supports the ongoing protests demanding social and civil justice. A crucial part of democracy is being able to publicly demonstrate one's frustration over the actions – or lack thereof – of one's government and/or officials of the state. We do, however, urge students who wish to participate in these protests to do so safely. Please follow [CDC recommendations](#) regarding limiting the spread of COVID-19 and be sure to sanitize your hands often, wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose, and stay 6 feet apart from others when at all possible.

To our white and non-Black students of color, please use your relative privilege to support, defend, and lift up Black organizers and protestors. To our Black students, please know that you are loved, your voice is important, and SGB is here to ensure that you are safe, supported, and heard. Please do not hesitate to let us know what we can do to help you and your community through our collective struggle for justice.

**Below are resources compiled in partnership with Black Action Society that you can donate to, sign onto, or get involved with:**

- Black Lives Matter Ways to Help: [blacklivesmatter.carrd.co](https://blacklivesmatter.carrd.co)
- Official George Floyd GoFundMe: [gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd](https://gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd)
- Justice for Breonna Taylor:  
<https://go.theactionpac.com/sign/stand-with-breonna?akid=s523975..XeuD9y>
- Justice for Tony McDade:  
[https://actionnetwork.org/letters/demand-justice-for-tony-mcdade?source=direct\\_link&](https://actionnetwork.org/letters/demand-justice-for-tony-mcdade?source=direct_link&)
- Justice for Dion Johnson: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/justice-for-dion-johnson>
- Reclaim The Block: <https://www.reclaimtheblock.org/home>
- Black Visions Collective: <https://www.blackvisionsmn.org>
- North Star Health Collective: [northstarhealthcollective.org/donate](https://northstarhealthcollective.org/donate)
- Black-Owned Business Relief Fund:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/black-owned-businesses-relief-fund>



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- Create George's Law: Make Acts of Racism an Act of Domestic Terrorism:  
<http://chng.it/rst2yX4YWg>

Bailout Funds:

- National Bailout Fund: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/freeblackmamas2020>
- Pittsburgh: <https://www.bukitbailfund.org/donate>
- Brooklyn: [brooklynbailfund.org/donation-form](http://brooklynbailfund.org/donation-form)
- Louisville: [actionnetwork.org/fundraising/lo...](http://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/lo...)
- Seattle: [donorbox.org/ncbf](http://donorbox.org/ncbf) or [nwcombailfund.org](http://nwcombailfund.org)
- Los Angeles: [gofundme.com/f/peoples-city...](http://gofundme.com/f/peoples-city...)
- Philadelphia: [phillybailfund.org](http://phillybailfund.org)
- Chicago: [chicagobond.org](http://chicagobond.org)

Finally, the events of the last few weeks, along with the ongoing pandemic, are especially traumatizing for many. Students are encouraged to contact the University Counseling Center at 412-648-7930 for additional information on how you can get help.

Thank you and In Solidarity,

*Eric Macadangdang*

**2020-2021 Student Government Board President**

*Sophia Felix*

**2020-2021 Student Government Board Diversity & Inclusion Committee Member**

*Cedric Humphrey, Tyler Viljaste, Ben King, Annalise Abraham, Kathryn Fleisher, Katie Richmond, Victoria Chuah, & Victor So*

**2020-2021 Student Government Board**