Statement in Solidarity with African Americans in the Fight for Justice signed by over 1,000 Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi American (AAPIDA) educators, scholars, and students

In just one week, more than 1,000 Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American (AAPIDA) educators, scholars and students co-signed the Statement in Solidarity with African Americans in the Fight for Justice. As protests echoing the call of #BlackLivesMatter continue around the country and the world, AAPIDA educators and scholars condemned the long history of state-sanctioned violence against Black people in the United States, such as the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, against other racialized and indigenous communities, and against those who fight for justice.

In the spirit of activists such as Yuri Kochiyama and Grace Lee Boggs who championed Asian-Black solidarity and comradeship, individuals and organizations alike signed the letter to pledge their commitment to fundamentally change legal, cultural, civic, economic, and educational institutions to combat racism, violence, and inequity, as well as to address anti-Blackness within AAPIDA communities. As supporters of and participants in these struggles for social justice, they represent fields such as Asian American Studies, Law, Health Sciences, and Film, from institutions in California, Hawaii, New York, Oregon, Massachusetts and more.

For media inquiries, please contact events@aasc.ucla.edu.

Statement in Solidarity with African Americans in the Fight for Justice

As Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi American (AAPIDA) educators, scholars, and students, we express our solidarity with those fighting to end state violence against African Americans and other racialized and indigenous communities. We also commit ourselves to this struggle as we understand that state violence has a long history tracing back to the time of enslaved peoples and settler colonialism on these occupied lands.

We convey our deepest condolences to the Floyd family and all their relations. We grieve with them because we know that George Floyd is not alone. For decades, police killings of Black persons have been unrelenting, despite demands for legal, institutional and legislative changes to ensure that Black lives matter.

There is a history of Black-Asian and Third World solidarity during the turbulent sixties, when members of AAPIDA communities locked arms in the movement for a better world free of racial inequality and exploitation. We recognize the decades of struggle against violence and for freedom by African Americans that has protected and expanded civil rights for all of us. We also know that racial solidarity work is not easy, as we continue to combat anti-Blackness to this day. Even within
AAPIDA communities, there are divides to overcome. But this moment in history requires us to come together against injustice.

We believe that the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers is a gross violation of basic human rights to life and dignity. All four officers, including the three bystanders that include an Asian American officer, must be held culpable. A full investigation into the institutional culture, history of police complaints, and policies that have allowed misconduct to go unpunished should be pursued. This process needs to be transparent and transformative. We must stand with the Floyd family and the efforts to change the fundamental role of police in Black and Brown communities as an occupying force and the systemic inequities within our society that devalue human lives.

We hope that fellow members of our diverse Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi American communities will join in the growing movements to uphold civil rights and civil liberties, including support for justice in the case of George Floyd. This includes fighting anti-Blackness within our own communities. We ask those who recognized the pain he suffered to reach across the racial divide so that yet another life is not lost in vain. As the pandemic will lead to severe cuts in government programs, we know public accountability, democracy, and community empowerment is even more vital. We need to work together to move forward an agenda for change across the country.

With heavy hearts and an endless belief in justice, we hold hope in unity.

Organizational Signatures (collected as of June 11, 2020)

AAPI Educator Pipeline
Asian American and Asian Studies Department, De Anza College
Asian American Pacific Islander Law Students Association (APILSA) - UCLA
Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA)
Asian American Transnational Research Initiative
Asian and Asian American Arts and Culture Program, UMass Fine Arts Center
Asian Pacific American Student Development Office at UC Berkeley
Asian Pacific Islander Caucus at UCLA Luskin
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council
Asian Pacific-Islander Graduate Student Alliance (APIGSA) - UCSB
Asian-Pacific Studies Program, California State University, Dominguez Hills
Associated Students of UC Irvine (ASUCI)
Association of Harvard Asian and Asian American Faculty and Staff
BRIDGE: Pilipinx Outreach & Retention
California Faculty Association - API Caucus
California State University, Northridge - Asian American Studies
Center for Asian American Theology and Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary
CSU East Bay Asian Pacific Islander Faculty & Staff Association
Department of Native Hawaiian Health, University of Hawaii
Deviant Voices A Cappella
ELEVATE AAPI @ Irvine Valley College
Emory Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American Activists (APIDAA)
Filipino American Educators Association of CA
Filipinx Social Work Network
Full Circle Project at Sacramento State
Fullchange Therapy
Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies
NASPA Asian Pacific Islander Knowledge Community
Nikkei Student Union - UC Santa Barbara
Pacific Ties Newsmagazine
Pilipinos for Community Health at UCLA
Reappropriate
ReModel Minority at the Wright Institute
Samahang Pilipino - UCLA
South Asian Law Students Association - UCLA
Students Against Hindutva Ideology (SAHI) at UCLA
UCLA Asian American Studies Center
UCLA Asian Pacific American Law Journal (APALJ)
UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge
UCLA Labor Center
UCLAforAll
UConn Asian American Cultural Center
UCSB Asian Resource Center (ARC)
University of Massachusetts Lowell Office of Multicultural Affairs
University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Asian American Studies

Individual Signatures (Collected as of June 11, 2020 - Affiliations are for identification purposes only)

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Samia Abbasi, Kulfi Beauty
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Mayrose Acob, Ally
Jerald Adamos, Educator
Amanda Adolfo, UCLA
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Randall Akee, UCLA, Associate Professor
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Nina Asher, Professor
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Gena Huynh, Undergraduate
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