

Student Organizations at Chapman University, Fowler School of Law
Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives

On Monday, May 25th, 2020, George Floyd breathed his last breath while saying the words “I can’t breathe” continuously and to no avail. He struggled for his last breath while Officer Derek Chauvin kneeled on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

We, the undersigned student organizations at Chapman University, Fowler School of Law, join Black communities across the nation in mourning the deaths of [George Floyd](#), [Breonna Taylor](#), [Ahmaud Arbery](#), [Tony McDade](#), [David McAtee](#), and the many more Black lives lost to police violence and systemic racism every day. We condemn racialized police violence and acts of white supremacy. We stand in solidarity with leaders and communities mobilizing to demand accountability and justice for the brutal killings of Black people by police officers.

We are witnessing the nation’s frustration and grief over the unwarranted deaths of Black lives in recent weeks. We understand that these deaths are not isolated occurrences but are part and parcel of a long, devastating history of structural oppression and discrimination against Black people and communities of color. We have seen and continue to see the complete disregard of Black lives in our communities. Being silent while these injustices occur is no longer an option.

As law students who will become future lawyers, lawmakers, and leaders, we believe we have a responsibility to our Black communities as well as to our legal profession to speak out against systemic racism, police violence and any anti-Black oppression. The undersigned student organizations at Chapman University, Fowler School of Law ask others to join our commitment to becoming allies for the Black community.

In following the lead of Black advocates and organizers, we call for local counties and cities to invest in Black communities rather than increased criminalization. In addition, here are other ways we can all show our commitment to building a more just future for everyone:

Demand accountability by contacting the [Hennepin County District Attorney’s Office](#) & texting FLOYD to 55156 to demand the officers who killed George Floyd are charged with murder.

Donate to organizations such as [Black Visions Collective](#), The Bail Project and the Minnesota Freedom Fund, or a [collective bail fund](#) distributed across the country to help protestors.

Educate yourselves about the [Black Lives Matter movement](#), [police violence](#) against Black communities, and [anti-racism](#).

Support the Black community by going to Black owned [businesses](#) and restaurants.

Raise awareness by having hard conversations about racism with your family, friends, and colleagues.

In Solidarity,

Diversity and Social Justice Forum
Black Law Students Association
National Lawyers Guild
Student Bar Association
Muslim Law Students Association
Hispanic Law Students Association
Jewish Law Students Association
Children and Family Law Society
Corporate Law Society
Minority Law Students Association
Christian Law Student Society
Art Law Society
Entertainment and Sports Law Society

St. Thomas More Society
Criminal Law Society
Public Interest Law Foundation
Chapman Women Lawyer's Association
Korean America Law Student Association
International Law Association
Moot Court Competition Board
Mock Trial Competition Board
Human Rights Law Society
Immigration Law Society
Alternative Dispute Resolution Competition Board
OUTLaw
Iranian Law Society

*This letter is written on behalf of select student organizations at Chapman University, Fowler School of Law.