June 8th, 2020

Trayvon Martin. Eric Garner. Michael Brown. Tamir Rice. Freddie Gray. Sandra Bland. Breonna Taylor. Ahmaud Arbery. George Floyd. These are sisters, daughters, sons, fathers. They walked amongst us. They could have been us. Yet a deeply flawed, appalling system perpetuated by our collective overlooking and ignorance cost them their lives.

We would not be where we are — scientifically, technologically, or as a collective humanity — without the efforts of our Black brothers and sisters. Yet Black lives are constantly overlooked, senselessly taken in never-ending acts of violence and hatred. We stand in solidarity with the black members of our community in a fight for justice in the face of police brutality, racism, and socio-economic inequality. Though the rest of us will never truly understand what it feels like to walk in your shoes, we will be there for you and support you. This includes understanding and checking our own privilege, actively self-educating and working to dismantle internal biases, and having the tough conversations we so try to avoid. It has always been our collective responsibility to educate ourselves and stand for justice in any way we can, and these trying times serve as yet another reminder.

As an organization founded to foster a safe space for those who identify as women in ECE, we are committed to keeping our organization a safe space as well as making whatever internal changes are necessary in order to best support our black community. This includes collaborating with a wider range of organizations that support social justice, including equity within tech. This includes forcing ourselves to reflect on our own beliefs. This includes urging our members to self-educate. Whether you identify as a womxn, whether you’re in ECE — or not — we will be there to listen to you and support you, and we actively implore our members to do the same.

As a student organization, we are prohibited from donating funds directly. However we encourage anyone reading this to proactively demand justice. This means not just stopping at social media sharing. It means doing what you can to contribute to the movement — monetarily (through petitions, nonprofits, and bail funds), going to protests, self-educating and educating
family and friends, and demanding justice from local, state, and the national government in any form. We have attached a multitude of resources for these purposes.

The fight for justice does not end when the topic isn’t trending anymore. This is something we must constantly push for and never forget. We urge our members, our community, and anyone reading this to take action.

In solidarity,

UT Women in ECE

Here are some resources to educate yourself and fight for change:

➔ Educate yourself. There are so many resources out there! Here are only a few:

Watch

● 13th (Netflix)
● American Son (Netflix)
● Dear White People (Netflix)
● When They See Us (Netflix)
● Moonlight (Netflix)
● The Hate U Give (Hulu)
● The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross (amazon)
● Free Yale Course on African American History ([https://oyc.yale.edu/african-american-studies/afam-162](https://oyc.yale.edu/african-american-studies/afam-162))

Read

● Black Feminist Thought by Patricia Hill Collins
● How To Be an Antiracist by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi
● Sister Outsider by Audre Lorde
● So you want to talk about race by Ijeoma Oluo
● Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America by Nathan McCall
● Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult
● No name in the Street by James Baldwin
● The Autobiography of Malcolm X
● Citizen by Claudia Rankine
Police Reform and Dismantling Legal Estrangement

Stay Updated with Current News

- Mapping Police Violence
  ○ https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/
- Enough is Enough- Performance Review of MPD

➔ Have conversations with family/friends about blm. Hold them accountable too!
➔ Sign petitions
  - Text “FLOYD” to 55156
  - Text “ENOUGH” to 55156
  - Text “JUSTICE” to 55156
➔ Contact your local officials
➔ Support Black Owned Businesses
  ◆ A good list can be found at:
  https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/austin-black-businesses-to-support-list/269-4d51732e-7b09-4eb0-a1c0-cee694755497
➔ Donate to:
  - Reclaim the Block
  - Black Visions Collective
  - Legal Rights Center
  - Campaign Zero
  - Unicorn Riot
  - Your city’s bail fund

Tips to reduce internal bias

★ Understand your privilege
★ Learn about allyship, and anti-racism
★ Pay attention to the ways anti-blackness are present everywhere
★ Be more than just “not racist”, be actively anti-racist
★ Commit to listen to and amplify the voices of POC