

Dear FOCUS Community,

I want to stress the fact that when part of our community suffers, we all suffer. The sickening killing of George Floyd has left us all angered, pained, and horrified. The resulting peaceful and non-peaceful protests have left our community divided in strength, support, and love at the hands of this racial injustice. As we all try to find a way to make sense of the events taking place - through participating in protests, donating, or encouraging and confiding in one another - I want to make sure that FOCUS is part of those resources available to all of you and that we support our community.

While our main form of support is in the academic space, our mission of diversity and equity in the sciences means we can not be blind to the systems of oppression that still permeate our world.

On my end, I have personally struggled with ways that I can provide support. There are a plethora of resources below for those of you who want to find a way to be a support system in whatever role you can. I will be available all of this week and in the future as a resource should you want to talk to someone. I especially encourage my Black students to reach out, as I recognize you all may require more intimate care at this time. Whether personally affected by the recent events or not, we invite everyone in our community to be supportive of each other.

Please reach out to us in FOCUS, friends, family, and loved ones to check in with each other. Each and every one of you are in our thoughts as we continue to do what we can to help you all.

We love you, our FOCUS community, and we will continue to be there for you.

Warmly,  
Lon

Here are some immediate ways in which you can get involved:  
(The following is taken from the BSA email sent on May 29th)

#### Support Grassroot Organizations

- [Community Bail Funds](#)
  - As protests around the country express their outrage regarding the unjust systemic racism and police brutality present in our nation, increased police presence at these gatherings have resulted in the detainment and arrests of hundreds and thousands of people.
  - One way to support protesters from your own home is through donations to any of these community bail fund organizations. The [US cash bail protocol](#) disproportionately affects people of color, ultimately leading to mass incarceration. These organizations help raise bail for those who cannot afford it in this moment of protest as part of their larger goal to advocate for a fairer future.
- [Black Vision Collective](#) (@blackvisioncollective)

- A transformative organization led by MN Black, Trans, and Queer activists with a focus on Black liberation through building strategic campaigns, investing in Black leadership, and engaging in cultural and narrative organizing.
- [Reclaim the Block](#) (@reclaimtheblock)
  - Organizes Minneapolis community and city council members to divest from the police funding and invest more into other areas of the city's budget that truly promote community health and safety
- [MN Women for Political Change](#) (@mnwfp)
  - Organization with a current focus on mutual-aid and distributing supplies for the communities in the Twin Cities.

Virtual Phone Banking ([access scripts provided by the Carleton BSA here](#))

- Call Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison (651) 296-3353
- Call Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman (612) 348-5550
- Call Minnesota Governor Walz (651) 201-3400

Minnesota-Based Donations

- If you live in Minneapolis or the surrounding area please drop off supplies and medical care at 436 Roy St. (Bethlehem Lutheran Church) St. Paul, Minnesota.
- Minnesota Youth Collective is open and accepting supplies at 2161 University Ave W. Suite 100 St. Paul, MN 55114.

Other Larger Organizations to Consider Donating To:

\* These organizations/funds have received an outpouring of support but are still necessary to list.

*Official George Floyd Fund on GoFundMe*

From the GoFundMe website, written by Philonise Floyd, George Floyd's brother: "This fund is established to cover funeral and burial expenses, mental and grief counseling, lodging and travel for all court proceedings, and to assist our family in the days to come as we continue to seek justice for George. A portion of these funds will also go to the Estate of George Floyd for the benefit and care of his children and their educational fund."

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd>

*NAACP Legal Defense Fund*

From the site: "Donate today to help us win landmark legal battles, protect voters across the nation, and advance the cause of racial justice, equality, and an inclusive society."

[https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate\\_page\\_KEY=15780 &\\_ga=2.209233111.496632409.1590767838-1184367471.1590767838](https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6857/p/salsa/donation/common/public/?donate_page_KEY=15780&_ga=2.209233111.496632409.1590767838-1184367471.1590767838)

Stay connected with the Carleton BSA to remain updated on ways you can contribute to the cause

- [Join their mailing list](#) and connect with them on social media @carletonbsa

Lastly, we encourage you to educate yourselves with the following resources dedicated to anti-racism, anti-Blackness, protest safety, and how to be a better ally.

- [Masterlist of petitions and resources](#)
- [Anti-racism education](#)
- [Google Drive of works to learn about the history of Black activism](#)