Equity Student Council Statement Against White Supremacy

June 4, 2020

Trigger Warning: anti-Black violence, police brutality, and white supremacist systems of oppression

To the students and faculty of the Stan Richards School of Advertising & Public Relations, and the Greater UT Austin Community:

Enough is enough.


And most recently George Floyd.

Injustice, injury and death for Black Americans at the hands of the criminal justice system are the result of a constitutional crisis in the U.S. that pre-date George Floyd’s pleas of “I can’t breathe” while a police officer knelt on his neck for over 7-minutes. Generations of Black Americans have fought for their civil rights for centuries to reform the inequities within our government, social, and political structures. Now Black Americans, non-Black people of color and white allies have raised their voices in national protest to call attention to systemic racism and the very public murders of Black folks that circulate on endless loops in our nation’s media cycles. These voices demand change.

The Stan Richards School Equity Student Council raises our collective voice in unison. We too demand change.

The Equity Student Council consists of University of Texas students committed to making inclusive change in academia and in the advertising and public relations industries; and we have no need for a white savior narrative. We are a collective of minorities and allies working to listen, provide a safe space for all underrepresented identities, and amplify our collective voice in ways that affect positive, progressive change within the Stan Richards School, within the UT community and in the professional fields in which we seek to work. We operate under the assumption that we exist within a system that supports white supremacy, and we advocate for changes that will challenge this system and ensure equity for all.

As a council, we urge all members of the Stan Richards School to engage and re-engage in difficult conversations that challenge systemic racism and recognize privilege, and we urge you to take action that tangibly supports the Black community. This call to action doesn’t begin and end with a post on social media or when the news cycles cease their focus on the loss of Black lives. We must go beyond the veil of allyship and create the change we want to see - including, but not limited to, signing petitions, making
donations, and addressing racism in our interpersonal relationships and within the structure and fabric of our organizations.

In Solidarity,

Members of the Stan Richards School Equity Council.

To seek support during this difficult time, or to join our ongoing work to create change, please reach out to the Stan Richards School’s Minority Liaison:

Lee Ann Kahlor
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(512)791-5726

BIAS INCIDENTS are offenses against individuals, groups or property, motivated in whole or in part by a person’s or groups’ perceived identity (i.e. age, citizenship, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, national origin, race, sexual orientation, veteran status). If you have experienced a bias incident, you can report it here: https://diversity.utexas.edu/ccrt/

Additionally, we’ve provided a sample of resources that we encourage you to explore.

Resources
https://www.obama.org/anguish-and-action/
https://blacklivesmatter.com

75 Things You Can do For Racial Injustice: https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234

Books
- White Fragility Robin DiAngelo
- Assata: An Autobiography Assata Shakur
  - Free Manuscript available online
- Me and White Supremacy Layla F. Saad
- So You Want to Talk About Race, Ijeoma Oluo
- The New Jim Crow Michelle Alexander

Movies:
- 13th (Available on Netflix)
- When They See Us
- The Hate You Give
- Killer of Sheep
- Do The Right Thing
- Bush Mama
- Just Mercy