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## **STOP! We Can't Breathe...**

The past few weeks have been an extremely somber time for the Black community, and for allies as well. The recent and ongoing police violence and killings of Black men, women and non-binary folks throughout the U.S. and Canada has heightened feelings of helplessness, fear, hurt, pain, anger and rage. All these feelings are valid and do not require any apology.

Earlier this week, Brother George Floyd lost his life when a white Minneapolis police officer rooted his knee into Floyd's neck. Law-abiding citizens crying out for him to be released by this unethical act were ignored and told to stand back as they watched their brother begin to fade away and take his last breath, crying "Momma" as he died.

Canada is hardly immune. This week, police in Toronto were implicated in the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a young Black woman who fell 24 stories to her death at her apartment building. In April, D'Andre Campbell, a young black man, was killed by Toronto police after calling them himself during a mental health crisis.

Communities are outraged and are demanding justice for these vicious attacks against the Black community. Racism has been rooted into our systems for far too long and George Floyd's killing was the last straw. This was not the first outrage and we know it will not be the last but we recognize that it's time for all of us to rise up and raise our voices loud enough to say "WE CAN'T BREATHE" and this needs to STOP!

Black and Indigenous people, especially women, have a long history of experiencing law enforcement violence and killings that go unheard. Social justice organizations and movements have organized since the 80's to bring visibility to raise attention and demand justice for Black and Indigenous women's experiences of police brutality.

As we know, and ought to know, those with power, privilege and wealth will always look for ways to scare and divide us in our collective resistance. This tactic is a way to avoid the necessity of dismantling systemic racism. Division is deliberately meant to silence and dismiss Black, Indigenous and racialized folks (BIRF) who speak up against racist action and systems of inequity.



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To the Black and Indigenous communities, we see you; we hear you; we feel you and CSU is committed to standing by your side while holding your hand in the name of solidarity. We are not free until we are all free.

Please join us in asking for justice by supporting the [Minneapolis Freedom Fund](#) that posts bail for Black, Indigenous and Racialized folks or other people of colour who get arrested for protesting Minneapolis

**And please join us in asking for justice by saying their names:**

#JusticeforAbdirahmanAbdi - [RIP](#)  
#JusticeforD'AndreCampbell - [RIP](#)  
#JusticeforRegisKrochinskiPaquet [RIP](#)  
#JusticeforAhmaudArbery - [RIP](#)  
#JusticeforBreonnaTaylor - [RIP](#)  
#JusticeforGeorgeFloyd - [RIP](#)

With all of our ❤️s,

CSU's Equity Committee