



# STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT

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## STATEMENT ON RECENT EVENTS | JUNE 1, 2020

It is with a heavy heart that, in 2020, I am writing such a statement to you today. By now, I am sure we've all had a chance to watch the emotionally terrorizing and stomach-churning video of George Floyd's murder in Minnesota. Floyd, along with Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor, add to the growing list of unarmed black people to die at the hands of law enforcement agencies in America. While many of you have shrugged at this incident as just "a few more bad apples" I believe some professions can't afford to have bad apples. For example, pilots, surgeons, or any entity responsible for safety and managing public wellness. This is not a noble concept.

Following yet another public display of disregard for black life, Americans of every race took to the streets to hold their peers, police departments, and elected officials accountable via marches, protests, and rallies across the country. I stand with you, and I too believe **#BlackLivesMatter**.

As the first African American male Student Government President in over a decade, it isn't lost on me the silence our association has held on social issues in the past that affect people of color. Rest assured, things will be different with this administration. We will use our collective voices and platforms to lift up our Black alumni, students, staff, and faculty in their time of need. This is at the core of what it means to attend a Jesuit university, and to *link faith with justice*.

The Loyola University New Orleans Student Government Association does not tolerate any forms of hate or discrimination and we do not intend to be silent on these tragedies while many of our community members suffer. **We commit ourselves to remedy the history of inaction in Loyola's Student Government and to fight for racial equity on our campus and beyond.**

While we commit ourselves to upholding sincere regard and respect for every Loyola community member, this Student Government Association believes that respect is not enough without action. Thus, I charge every member of our community, to make a donation to the [Minnesota Freedom Fund](#). If you can't donate, please consider signing one of the three petitions here ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) to support efforts that will hold members of law enforcement accountable.

"You are personally responsible for becoming more ethical than the society you grew up in." - Eliezer Yudkowsky

In accepting this personal responsibility, it starts with challenging and educating ourselves before we're able to lead our peers. This [link](#), we believe, is an honest first start to achieving that change. The kind of change which occurs outside of echo chambers. We encourage anyone who is feeling unsettled or impassioned by these latest injustices and who has experienced or witnessed any form of discrimination to reach out to your student representatives at [sga@loyno.edu](mailto:sga@loyno.edu), or fill out a [Bias Incident Report](#).

**Rest in Power, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and so many countless others.**

**With love and solidarity,**

Freedom Fox Richardson, **Student Government Association President**

Cheyenne Williams, **Director of Equity and Inclusion**