



TEXAS THETA TAU

May 30, 2020

[TW: anti-Black violence, police brutality]

On May 25, George Floyd was murdered by 4 police officers from the Minnesota Police Department. This horrifying incident happened less than one month after Mike Ramos was murdered right here in Austin by the Austin Police Department. The officer who murdered George Floyd was only charged with third-degree murder, and the officer who murdered Mike Ramos has yet to face prosecution. These are not isolated incidents— America has a longstanding history of oppression and state-sanctioned violence towards Black people, and police brutality is one of its many modern forms.

Texas Theta Tau stands in solidarity with the Black community here in Austin and across the nation. The UT student population is only 4% Black out of approx. 51,000 students, and our Black students' needs are consistently disregarded by both the Administration and the rest of the student body. As a mainly non-Black organization, we recognize our privilege and our responsibility to serve as anti-racist allies in the fight for equity and liberation, on AND off campus.

From here on out, we publicly declare our alignment with educating ourselves on the issues affecting the Black community, working to deconstruct our internalized biases, condemning all militarized violence, demanding greater accountability from elected officials and community members, divesting from reliance on the police force, supporting those attending protest demonstrations, and donating to organizations that serve Black communities. This is not the beginning—Black individuals and communities have been fiercely fighting against the oppression of their people for centuries, and we **MUST** make conscious efforts as privileged individuals to listen to and amplify Black voices over our own.

Many of us, including non-black POC, have reaped intergenerational benefits from anti-blackness; thus, we must show our solidarity with intentional action against the systems that contribute to the oppression and deaths of Black people. **Texas Theta Tau pledges to match the contributions made by members, alumni, and others up to \$1000, with donations split evenly between Black Lives Matter, the Mike Ramos Brigade, Restoring Justice, and 400+1.** To donate, venmo @TexasThetaTau with the caption “BLM”.

One of the core values of Theta Tau is being honest and ethical. Be honest with yourselves about what is happening and realize that it is your ethical duty to speak out and act for justice for the Black community. We call on our brothers from all Theta Tau chapters in the Central region, and all over the country, to join us in these commitments.

In Solidarity,
Texas Theta Tau Membership 2020-21

Resources

Many of the following resources are sourced from Texas Orange Jackets, Texas Spirits, Texas Bluebonnets, and UT Student Government.

Protest Safety / Legal Services and Other Resources:

- Restrict Your Information From the UT Directory [\[link\]](#)
- List of Lawyers Offering Pro Bono Services for Texas Protesters [\[link\]](#)
- How Hong Kong's Protesters Evade Police and Keep The Demonstrations Alive [\[link\]](#)
- Master List of Safety Tips for Protesting [\[link\]](#)
- Defending Against Tear Gas (Occupy Wall Street) [\[link\]](#)
- Safety During Protest (Amnesty International) [\[link\]](#)
- COVID-19 Testing Sites in Texas [\[link\]](#)
- Austin Community Law Center [\[link\]](#)
- Know Your Rights: Protesters' Rights (ACLU) [\[link\]](#)
- Surveillance Self-Defense (EFF) [\[link\]](#)
- Austin Lawyers Guild: 512-817-4ALG
- Texas Civil Rights Project [\[link\]](#)
- Tycha Kymbrough, PLLC: pro bono (free) legal help for Austin protesters: 833-553-4251
- Right To Protest [\[link\]](#)
- FREE Legal Services for UT Students (only for those enrolled in summer classes) [\[link\]](#)

Donate

- Directory of Community Bail Funds [\[link\]](#)
- Travis County Bail Fund [\[link\]](#)
- Harris County Bail Fund [\[link\]](#)
- Dallas County Bail Fund [\[link\]](#)
- Justice for Mike Ramos - Austin [\[link\]](#)
- 400+1 Community Bail Fund (Austin) [\[link\]](#)
- Tony McDade GoFundMe [\[link\]](#)
- Mike Ramos Brigade [\[link\]](#)
- Official George Floyd Memorial Fund [\[link\]](#)
- George Floyd (BigFloyd) Memorial Fund - Organized by George's sister [\[link\]](#)
- I Run With Maud - Justice for Ahmaud Arbery Fundraiser [\[link\]](#)
- National Bail Out Fund - Free Black Mamas [\[link\]](#)
- Northstar Health Fund - First Aid for Minneapolis Protests [\[link\]](#)
- Black Visions Collective - Minneapolis-Based Black Liberation Organization [\[link\]](#)
- Reclaim The Block - Minneapolis Community Safety [\[link\]](#)
- Louisville Bail Fund [\[link\]](#)
- National Police Accountability Project Fund [\[link\]](#)

Educate

- Actionable Steps (Austin Justice Coalition) [\[link\]](#)

- Mapping Police Violence [[link](#)]
- Showing Up for Racial Justice Toolkit [[link](#)]
- 75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice [[link](#)]
- Free Yale Course on African American History [[link](#)]
- Reformist Reforms vs Abolitionist on Policing [[link](#)]
- My Role in a Social Change Ecosystem by Deepa Iyer [[link](#)]
- Enough is Enough by MPD150 [[link](#)]
- Police Reform and the Dismantling of Legal Estrangement by Yale Law [[link](#)]
- Is Prison Necessary? Ruth Wilson Gilmore Might Change Your Mind [[link](#)]
- Reading List: [Anti-Racism Resources for White People](#)
- Reading List: [Master Page of Info](#)
- Reading List: [Massive Reading List](#)
- Reading List: [Black Women Radicals and AAFC Solidarity Reading List](#)
- Book: [How To Be An Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
- Workbook: [Me and White Supremacy](#) by Layla Saad
- Video: [White People, Enough: A Look at Power and Control](#) by Jaelyn Coates
- Book Club and Study Group: “[Algorithms of Oppression](#)” led by Mandy Harris William, *Algorithms of Oppression* authored by Dr. Safiya Umoja Noble
- Online Class: [The Great Unlearn](#) taught by Rachel Cargle
- Black-owned bookstores to buy from
 - [Mahogany Books](#)
 - [Eso Won Books](#)
 - [Harrietts Bookshop](#)
 - [Semicolon Bookstore](#)

Take Action

- Black Lives Matter Cardd [[link](#)]
- Send emails
 - [Austin: Tell City Manager to Bring In Progressive Police Leadership](#), template included on website
 - police@minneapolismn.gov
 - minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov
 - policereview@minneapolismn.gov
- Sign petitions
 - Text “Floyd” to 55156 to sign a petition demanding the officers involved in George Floyd’s death be charged with murder.
 - Text “Enough” to 55156 to sign a petition demanding the officers involved with Breonna Taylor’s death be fired.

- Text “Justice” to 55156 to sign a petition demanding the District Attorneys George Barnhill and Jackie Johnson be removed from office for their insidious acts of injustice against Ahmaud Arbery.
- Visit [Reclaim the Block](#) to sign a petition urging Minneapolis to invest in community-led safety solutions.

Care

- Black Therapists Directory [\[link\]](#)
- Black Virtual Therapist Network [\[link\]](#)
- Black Girls Smile List of Mental Health Resources [\[link\]](#)
- Hotlines to call before you are in a serious crisis [\[link\]](#)
- Liberate - Meditation App for Black, Indigenous, People of Color Communities [\[link\]](#)
- “Therapy for Black Girls” - Podcast [\[link\]](#)
- Whole Brother Mission - Resources for Black men [\[link\]](#)
- National Alliance on Mental Illness [\[link\]](#)