

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-57001

Date introduced: June 3rd, 2020

Author(s): President Khademakbari, Senator Davis III

Sponsor(s): Refugee Advancement through Humanitarian Aid (RAHA), American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), Delta Omega Chi Medical Service Society (DOC), Association of Latinx/Hispanic Advocates & Allies (ALHAA), Filipino Student Association (UH FSA), Muslim Student Association (MSA), United Mission Relief (UMR), Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), Residence Halls Association (RHA), Ahlul Bayt Student Organization (ABSO), Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA), Deeds not Words at UH, Voices of UH, Sigma Kappa Sorority at the University of Houston, teachHOUSTON Student Society, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Unit #6806, The African Student Union, The Collegiate 100, The Black Student Union, The National Society for Black Engineers, The Association for Black Psychologists Chair Ahmed, Chair Garcia, Chief Justice Munoz, Vice President Rashid, Senator Ubina, Attorney General Barrett, Senator Gil, Senator Wolfe, Director of External Affairs Hulett, Speaker Cheng, Senator Castro, Senator Chidester, Chair Chukwu, Senator Hamad, Senator Medrano, Senator Paul, Senator Krothapalli, Senator Rowley, Senator Robinson, Senator Morgan, Chair Ortiz, Justice Torres, Senator Kim, Director of Outreach Nguyen, Senator Miles

Draft: Vote

Say Their Names Resolution

Whereas, George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man and a father of three was murdered on May 25th, 2020 by a white Minneapolis police officer, while three other police officers watched without taking action to save Mr. Floyd's life¹;

Whereas, George Floyd's death mirrors countless others²; Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year old Black man was pursued and murdered by armed white residents in South Georgia³,

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/05/30/violence-minneapolis-is-rooted-history-racist-policing-america/>

² <https://twitter.com/REALITIGRLFRND/status/1266172251574988800>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/article/ahmaud-arbery-shooting-georgia.html>

Breonna Taylor, a 26-year-old Black woman, a medical hero who was working as an emergency medical worker was shot eight times in her home during a “no knock” police raid⁴, Dreasjon Reed, a 21-year old Black man who was shot and killed by Indianapolis police in response to a police pursuit⁵, Regis Korchinski-Paquet, a 29-year-old black woman who mysteriously died due to a fall off a 24th floor apartment balcony⁶, Tony McDade, a 38-year-old was a queer Afro- American who was shot and killed in Tallahassee, Florida⁷, Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old Black woman and Prairie View A&M graduate was found dead in her jail cell after being apprehended and arrested by an agitated white state trooper for failing to signal a lane change⁸, Michael Brown a Black teenager was shot at least six times and killed by a white police officer in St. Louis⁹, Trayvon Martin a 17-year-old Black teenager was murdered by a white neighborhood patrol member while walking home from a convenience store in Miami¹⁰;

Whereas, the senseless murders of these fathers, mothers, children, sisters and brothers highlights the disregard for human rights and racist state-sanctioned violence and systemic racism that has pervaded the United States since its inception¹¹;

Whereas, acts of racial violence against Afro-Americans remain prevalent amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which disproportionately affects Afro-Americans, emphasizing the mistrust between Black communities and the health-care system, further highlighting the health effects systemic racism has in the United States¹²;

Whereas, the University of Houston is among the top national universities in ethnic diversity¹³ and serves an Afro-American student body population of over 4,500 students¹⁴;

Whereas, performative activism, using social media to post, retweet, and use hashtags is neither sufficient nor a form of political action;

⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/21/us/breonna-taylor-death-police-changes-trnd/index.html>

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⁶ <https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/siu-probing-death-of-woman-from-toronto-balcony>

⁷ <https://www.motherjones.com/crime-justice/2020/05/tony-mcdade-tallahassee-florida-police-shooting-death/>

⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/07/us/sandra-bland-video-brian-encinia.html>

⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/rewind/2019/08/michael-brown-death-shook-ferguson-190806075143124.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/florida-teen-trayvon-martin-is-shot-and-killed>

¹¹ <https://theconversation.com/the-racist-roots-of-american-policing-from-slave-patrols-to-traffic-stops-112816>

¹² https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/04/07/coronavirus-is-infecting-killing-black-americans-an-alarmingly-high-rate-post-analysis-shows/?arc404=true&itid=lk_inline_manual_3

¹³ <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/campus-ethnic-diversity>

¹⁴ <https://uh.edu/ir/reports/facts-at-a-glance/facts-at-a-glance.pdf>

Whereas, the 57th UH SGA is committed to advocating for those who have been underrepresented and amplifying the voices of those who have been historically silenced;

Therefore, be it resolved the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Condemns the murder of George Floyd, other acts of systemic racial violence and remains in complete solidarity with the Black community and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA calls on all University of Houston students, faculty, staff and administration to be found in solidarity with the Black community and practice the following forms of direct political action:

- 1) Condemn anti-black and racist sentiments in one's communities;
- 2) Educate one's self on the history of racial inequity, police brutality and criminal injustices;
- 3) Exercise one's U.S. and Texas constitutional right to protest¹⁵;
- 4) Sign Petitions¹⁶;
- 5) Hold elected officials accountable; and
- 6) Donate¹⁷

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will hold open and transparent communication with historically Black organizations and activist organizations at the University of Houston;

¹⁵ <https://www.aclutx.org/en/know-your-rights/freedom-of-speech-right-to-protest>

¹⁶ Justice for George Floyd Petition: https://www.change.org/p/mayor-jacob-frey-justice-for-george-floyd?utm_content=cl_sharecopy_22414602_en-US%3Av4&recruiter=1094322114&recruited_by_id=e83a0170-a043-11ea-b50f-250b5b9d0c5f&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_initial

The Minneapolis Police Officers to be charged for murder after killing innocent black man Petition: https://www.change.org/p/change-org-the-minneapolis-police-officers-to-be-charged-for-murder-after-killing-innocent-black-man?recruiter=1094358894&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=psf_combo_share_initial&utm_term=psf_combo_share_abi&recruited_by_id=1f5eb960-a054-11ea-8dce-e10f98d0711f

¹⁷ Official George Floyd Memorial Fund: https://www.gofundme.com/f/georgefloyd?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet

Black Lives Matter: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/ms_blm_homepage_2019

Restoring Justice (Houston Bail Fund): <https://www.restoringjustice.org/give>

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will monitor racial equity and sentiments through the release of student surveys;

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will work in partnership with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, UH administration and student organizations towards expanding awareness and education of issue areas of advocacy plaguing the Black community on campus;

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will work in partnership with The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Unit #6806 and Texas Southern University's Student Government Association to host voter registration drives for local and state elections;

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will meet with UHPD to discuss the use of force and racial profiling and advocate for de-escalation, sexual assault and anti-racism training;

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will advocate against and will support efforts against the gentrification of our Third Ward community;

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA supports the Office of the Provost in its efforts to increase Black and Brown faculty to more accurately represent the demographics of the University of Houston.

Be it further resolved, the UH SGA will continue to advocate for social justice and equity on and off campus.


Jasmine Khademakbari

Jasmine Khademakbari
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 06/19/2020

Julian Cheng

Julian Cheng
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 06/19/2020