

**Statement from UMD's Prince George's County Alumni Network (PGCAN) Chapter
RE: Black Lives Matter
June 17, 2020**

The University of Maryland's Prince George's County Alumni Network (PGCAN) stands in unity with Black Americans in denouncing racism and police brutality in this country. Being nestled in one of the wealthiest African American counties in the United States with a population that is 65% African American, we feel a duty to express our solidarity with the Black citizens of this country and as well as those who live in this community and comprise our student body and alumni network.

In addition, this network recognizes the many positive strides the university has made toward diversity and inclusion since its initial inception, including naming two of its buildings after prominent African American alumni and dedicating a monument to one of Maryland's native sons and most recognized orators, Frederick Douglass. PGCAN commits to raising awareness of and speaking up against racism within the Prince George's County, Maryland community and throughout our worldwide communities. We commit to actively fighting against injustice, inequality, and discrimination.

America is in the midst of reckoning with the legacies of racism, racial violence, and systemic injustice against Black people. The current national uprising, sparked by the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, have exposed the complex intersections of history, politics, and law, in depicting how race, white supremacy, and anti-blackness function in American society. We believe that education should be at the forefront of the fight against injustice, inequality, and discrimination. To that end, we provide the following resources and information to members of the Prince George's County community to work as steps toward the fight for social justice:

- **Support Organizations that Promote Social Justice!**
- **Be Sure You are Registered to Vote**
 - <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>
- **Be an Ally in the Fight for Social Justice**
 - [How You Can Be Ally to the Black Lives Matter Movement](#)
 - [Black People Need Stronger White Allies - Here's How You Can Be One](#)
- **Contact Your State Representatives and Support Laws that Support Social Justice**
 - <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>
 - <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/MD>
- **Listen, Research, Read, and Learn about Social Justice**
 - *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo
 - *How to be an Anti-racist*, Ibram X. Kendi
 - *The Case for Reparations*, Ta-Nehesi Coates
 - *The New Jim Crow*, Michelle Alexander
 - *The Fire Next Time*, James Baldwin
 - *Coming Full Circle*, Wanda Smalls Lloyd

- *Black Skin, White Masks*, Frantz Fanon
- *Our Time Is Now*, Stacey Abrams
- **Support Black-Owned Restaurants & Businesses**
- <https://www.dmvbrw.com/>
- www.eatokra.com
- <https://idontdoclubs.biz/2018/10/08/black-owned-restaurants-dc/>

In the coming months, we look forward to partnering with other alumni groups and members of the county to bring awareness to a cause that is near and dear to us. There is no better time than NOW to work toward a better community for us all.

Sincerely,

UMD Prince George's County Alumni Network Board Members