

Message to UIC Community - April 20, 2021

Dear Graduate Student Community,

We are deeply saddened by the need to reach out to make a statement but we know remaining silent indicates complicity in violence against Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) in our communities.

Last week as the nation prepared to learn the outcome of the trial against Derek Chauvin, who killed George Floyd last summer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, another unarmed Black man, Daunte Wright, was murdered in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota by a police officer during a traffic stop. Additionally, last week, the Chicago Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) released body camera footage from the murder of Adam Toledo. He was a 13-year-old Latino child shot and killed by police on March 29th in Little Village, Chicago. Nearby in Indianapolis, 8 people lost their lives after a shooter targeted a FedEx warehouse on April 15; 4 of these victims were Sikh. Each of these events happened just weeks after the Asian community was targeted in a violent act of terrorism in Atlanta, Georgia.

Through this letter we reaffirm our position, standing with our BIPOC community against hate and violence. Let us be clear, these tragedies were avoidable just as the others we've experienced over the past year as a result of the endurance of racism and white supremacist ideals in our country.

As the Executive Board of GSC, we denounce all forms of racism and will continue to work to fight against any bigoted acts of bullying, discrimination, or violence. GSC reiterates its stance as anti-racist and in support of our BIPOC members in GSC and across the university. We continue to support the mission of the Good Trouble Coalition at UIC to dismantle racist structures that disproportionately affect students of color.

We stand in solidarity with Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and other students of color in our community and in remembrance of those taken too soon. We see you. We hear you. You are not alone. We stand with you, grieve with you, and will continue to fight alongside you.

We also wanted to share some resources that are available to you at UIC for mental and emotional support related to race-related violence. The African American Cultural Center at UIC has curated these [resources](#) for students, particularly Black students. The UIC Counseling Center created this [newsletter](#) and curated these [resources](#).

For those who want to be involved in anti-racism advocacy and efforts in the Chicago community, Access Living in Chicago has been working to organize people around expanding Community Emergency Services that don't involve the police, more information can be found [here](#). Finally, Block Club Chicago created this list of [20 Black-led Organizations in Chicago](#) that people can support or connect with for support.

#BlackLivesMatter #LaGenteUnida #StopAsianHate

In Solidarity,

The Executive Board of the UIC Graduate Student Council