



## Statement on Racial Injustice

June 5, 2020

Dear APOLLO Community,

It is with great sadness that I write to you about the recent social injustices that have transpired in our society over the last few months. The recent, senseless killing of Mr. George Floyd by police in Minneapolis, MN, the murder of Ahmaud Arbery while jogging through a southern Georgia neighborhood, the killing of Breonna Taylor by police in her own home in Louisville, KY; these events and numerous others have sparked outrage and civil unrest in communities across the world who are tired of seeing African-Americans treated unjustly in our country. I know that many of us are disheartened, hurt and angry about these recurrent tragedies, which unfortunately are all too familiar to the African-American community. I too share these sentiments. However, I am encouraged by the fact that our fight for justice and equity is not stagnant, but it continues now with a renewed sense of purpose, and engagement on a multigenerational level.

Within APOLLO, we are privileged to have a diverse group of colleagues united for a common cause. It is our collective voice that makes us unique and enables us to work together to identify solutions to very important issues, such as those that we face in kidney transplantation. However, we cannot highlight group diversity and be mute on issues that are important to the collective. Not only should we celebrate our victories together, but that which hurts one member of our APOLLO family should be important to us all. Thus, I could not allow this moment to pass without lending a voice to the issue at hand.

Today we take a unified, unequivocal stand against violence, racism and injustice toward African-Americans in our country. Activist Angela Davis said it best, *"In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist."* [Anti-racism](#) is challenging the individual, structural and systemic racism that is endemic to our nation, so that our nation's history can stop repeating itself. It is evident now more than ever that regardless of the race with which we identify, we all play a critical role in moving the needle of progress forward on this issue.

To inspire hope, I would like to suggest the following resources for ways to take action and each do our part in creating a better future:

- Resources for educating yourself and your family about racism and injustice against African-Americans
  - Lawyer and activist [Bryan Stevenson's CNN interview 'Slavery didn't end in 1865, it just evolved' \[cnn.com\]](#)
  - [Sesame Street & CNN town hall for kids families addressing racism \[cnn.com\]](#) (Sat. 6/6/20 @ 10:00 AM ET)
  - Smithsonian article on [Talking About Race \[nmaahc.si.edu\]](#)
  - [The Anti-racism book list \[nytimes.com\]](#) by Professor Ibram X. Kendi



- Current movements
  - [The #8cantwait campaign \[8cantwait.org\]](https://8cantwait.org) – Contact your local mayor’s office to voice your support of eight immediate actions that city police departments can take to reduce police violence by 72%.
  - [Worldwide protests over the killing of George Floyd \[cnn.com\]](https://www.cnn.com)
- Additional resources
  - [Colorofchange.org \[colorofchange.org\]](https://colorofchange.org) – Informative resource for fighting local & national injustice
  - [Former President Obama virtual town hall on policing and civil unrest \[pbs.org\]](https://www.pbs.org)
  - [Citizens of Atlanta speak against destruction of our own communities in response to recent social injustices; rather encourage political engagement \[youtube.com\]](https://www.youtube.com)
  - Understanding [Juneteenth: Our Other Independence Day \[smithsonianmag.com\]](https://www.smithsonianmag.com)
  - [NPR article on Ahmaud Arbery and criminal justice system corruption \[npr.org\]](https://www.npr.org)
  - [Community leaders seek action and justice for Breonna Taylor \[cnn.com\]](https://www.cnn.com)
  - [Faith leaders discuss how the church can respond to social injustice \[youtu.be\]](https://youtu.be)

APOLLO community, thank you for standing together on this important issue. I am encouraged by the momentum that can be felt nationwide for justice to be served for our brother, Mr. Floyd. This tragedy is also a catalyst for change and a step toward eradicating the racism that is so deeply embedded in our society. I encourage everyone to take action within your our own spheres of influence as we strive toward a better future for every American citizen. Do not miss this moment.

Sincerely,

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