



# NACURH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE  
& UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALLS, INC.

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To: NACURH Inc.  
From: Katie Westermeyer, NACURH Chairperson  
Subject: Racial Injustice  
Date: June 2, 2020

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Dear NACURH,

I want to start this letter by saying we, as NACURH, waited too long. In an effort to move our organization away from “thoughts and prayers” and toward actionable steps and initiatives, we left our members wondering where we were and why we weren’t showing up. This was deeply harmful to our membership, especially Black folx who have not historically seen themselves represented or supported within NACURH. Our new Executive Committee came into our roles on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, and we have been seeking guidance and education on the ways we may be best-positioned to contribute meaningfully. We strive for intentionality, knowing how our platform can be used to educate and empower those that we serve. As an organization that has historically underserved our Black and Non-Black students of color, we need to do better. Our Executive Committee is committed to rebuilding trust with and increasing support, resources, and visibility for Black and Non-Black students of color within our organization.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis, Minnesota, died at the hands of a police officer who held his knee on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. This incident shined a light on racism and police brutality within the United States and has ignited protests across the nation. This is not an isolated incident. In recent weeks, we witnessed the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Tony McDade, and acknowledge that they are not the only Black individuals that have died at the hands of police brutality within the past weeks, months, or years. Now is not the time for thoughts and prayers, nor is it time for performative [virtue-signaling](#). Change will not come from wishing it so or by letting our engagement end on social media. Instead, we must engage in actionable steps to *empower, motivate, and equip* our members to enact change in their communities. This is in line with our mission statement, but it is impossible to engage with these resources or in these communities while having to fight for the value of your existence in oppressive systems designed against you. Black Lives Matter, and we are committed to amplifying that truth in the following ways:

## Empower

- NACURH will redirect the focus of our Identity Network Groups (currently POC, LGBTQ+, First Generation Students) to include more civic engagement, advocacy, and education initiatives while awarding our first Identity Network Grants.

- NACURH will center the 2021 Alternative Break Experience on racial justice, and if travel restrictions prohibit us from being able to execute this initiative, the funds will be donated to organizations supporting Black advocacy initiatives.
- NACURH will be seeking out professionals able to facilitate roundtables for Black students and Non-Black People of Color.

### Motivate

- NACURH will (as a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation) donate \$5,000 outright to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and will additionally match donations to other 501(c)(3) organizations supporting Black folx up to \$5,000. We will be posting more information on June 3 on our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts on how to have your contribution matched when donating to a 501(c)(3) organization including, but not limited to:
  - [NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.](#)
  - [Black Lives Matter](#)
  - [Reclaim the Block](#)
  - [Loveland Foundation](#)
  - [The Innocence Project](#)
- NACURH will encourage those who cannot give monetary donations to instead [Stream to Donate](#).

### Equip

- NACURH will utilize our network of alumni accumulated over the past 65+ years to gain perspectives, gather resources, and crowdsource funding. With their support, we are creating the NACURH Alumni Collective (NAC) to mobilize this network, inform our response, and maximize our community impact. The NAC can be led by the Advancement Society Coordinator we will be electing this year.
- NACURH will further connect with our corporate partners at ACPA and ACUHO-I, learning from their stances on [Imperative for Racial Justice and Decolonization](#) and [Equity & Inclusion](#).
- NACURH will create a page of our website dedicated to the following:
  - Sharing links to lists of books, articles, and media to inform our students of their ability to get involved.
  - Altering our LEAD Links program to engage in increased civic engagement and cultural competence of our leaders.
  - Creating email templates to equip our members with the ability to reach out to local, state, and federal government officials.
  - Crafting or promoting petitions that our members can take part of and share with their own communities.

This memo is one step of many. We want our conversations to be productive, informed, and ever-developing, and we need it to be shaped by our members, especially our BIPOC members who are most affected.

We fight alongside the oppressed and make it a priority to take intentional action by being a part of the conversation. Racism does not have a platform in NACURH. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [chair@nacurh.org](mailto:chair@nacurh.org).

On Behalf of NACURH,  
Katie Westermeyer  
NACURH Chairperson