

Statement of the University of Houston Law Center's Diversity & Inclusion Committee on Behalf of UHLC's Faculty and Community Regarding the Killing of George Floyd and Systemic Racism Against Black People in the United States

The University of Houston Law Center's Diversity & Inclusion Committee has been charged with representing the Law Center faculty and community. We have voted unanimously to issue this statement:

The University of Houston Law Center is heartbroken over the tragic death of Houston-native George Floyd, an African American man who was killed by the police while he was unarmed. While handcuffed lying face down on the street, Mr. Floyd died in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as a white police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes. Before his death, Mr. Floyd pleaded with the police officer that he could not breathe.

The Law Center, located in Houston's historic Third Ward where Mr. Floyd grew up, is committed to diversity, inclusion, and social justice.

We recognize that Mr. Floyd's killing was not an isolated incident of police brutality and that there have been other unjustified deaths under color of law caused by those whose role is to protect the public. Unfortunately, there is a pattern of unaccountability for these deaths.

We recognize that these tragic events cause those who face these injustices to feel helpless, anxious, angry, frustrated, and fearful for their personal safety, as evidenced by the statement of the Law Center's Black Law Students Association (BLSA). We stand with BLSA. We stand with Black Lives Matter.

We support the members of our society engaged in peaceful protest, and we stand in support of students, staff, faculty, alumni, and their families who are affected by this violence and racism.

The Law Center recognizes and affirms its obligation to fight intolerance, to support diversity and inclusion, and to embrace those from different backgrounds. We condemn racism and discrimination in all forms, will work to serve as anti-racists committed to eradicating the scourge of racism from our nation and community, and will work to identify and challenge systemic prejudice wherever it exists.

June 9, 2020