

The Houston Journal of International Law is offering a commitment to ensure that respect for black people is, and always will be, a fundamental aspect of our identity as a scholarly journal. Our Journal feels that the best way to honor and show solidarity to Black Americans and their ancestors, on whose backs this country was built, is through action. To that end, the Houston Journal of International Law is making a donation to Black Lives Matter organizations, developing a plan to support the goals of Black Lives Matter, and committing ourselves to having a foreword from a black law student in each issue we publish.

Our third commitment is done in recognition that each member of the black diaspora has a unique perspective – no one black person speaks for all black people. Although all have witnessed this latest instance of injustice, each has come away with their own understanding of what happened and what needs to happen next. Similar incidents have occurred in the past and inspired only words. Outrage and sorrow at the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Oscar Grant, Philando Castille, and too many others is useless without unrelenting action to make change. This time, we all have an opportunity to meet these unjust killings with action.

Peaceful protest, meaningful engagement with black individuals, economic support for causes on the front lines of fighting racial injustice, and volunteering with black organizations are just some of the ways that you can help reduce, and then eliminate, instances of police violence. Finally, please remember that election day is November 4, 2020. **You can check your voter registration status [here](#).** Also consider volunteering to work the polls as voting locations need staffing in order to open. **You can check your eligibility and the instructions [here](#).**

Respectfully and in solidarity,

*Houston Journal of International Law at the University of Houston Law Center*

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