



Statement of Solidarity and Intent

June 6, 2020

We, the United Nations Association of the U.S.A. Brooklyn Chapter (UNA Brooklyn) and its Young Professionals Committee stand in solidarity with the mission of Black Lives Matter and the peaceful protestors on the frontlines throughout our Nation. In accordance with our obligations under the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the violence and killings against Black people and other people of color, such as the actions against George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and countless others must end.

After great strides in the cause of racial justice in the last century, decades of complacency in accepting racism within our society have gravely harmed this cause. We must now move beyond rhetoric and immediately and substantively begin to reform America's police departments by methodically removing racist people from its ranks and putting an end to law enforcement practices that systematically disadvantage people of color. It is not enough to not be racist: we must actively be anti-racist and have the difficult conversations to ensure Black people never again have to fight for human rights that they inherently deserve. In this manner, we will show our unmitigated support for the Black community and drive the positive change we need. The time for action is now!

Despite the ongoing pandemic, millions of people have joined peaceful protests around the world to voice their anger and frustration about these unconscionable acts of racial injustice. However, this movement extends well beyond these most recent human rights violations and calls for an end to the systemic oppression of black people which has permeated this Nation for the last 400 years.

Our Chapter is committed to uplifting the voices and political power of Black people, nationally and globally to drive the change that is long overdue. A central vehicle in meeting our goals are the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Therefore, our upcoming SDG curriculum will focus on facilitating the dialogue around SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, tailoring our conversations to injustices committed against the Black community and all persons of color.

Furthermore, we recognize the intersectionality of the Black Lives Matter movement and are committed to amplifying the voices of Black LGBTQ+ individuals. Despite the efforts of Black LGBTQ+ rights activists over the past five decades, like those of Marsha P. Johnson, Black trans men and women still have yet to enjoy the liberation that many of their white counterparts have enjoyed. We honor the lives of Nina Pop, Tony McDade, and countless other Black trans individuals whose lives have been lost over the past few years due to racism and hate.

To secure long-term racial equality, we must be deliberate in our actions to support the Black community. Those of us who are privileged enough to have avoided such injustice *must* acknowledge our privilege, educate ourselves on these issues, and leverage our privilege to defend the rights of all people of color well into the future. Only through open dialogue and persistent vigorous advocacy will we achieve the change our nation and world so desperately need to achieve racial justice.

“You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time.” - Angela Davis

Signed,
The UNA-USA Brooklyn Chapter and Young Professionals Committee