

To the MIT Graduate Community:

We, the Graduate Student Council Executive Committee, stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, our Black graduate students, and all those working to fight for racial justice in the United States. We offer our absolute support and will actively work towards dismantling systems of oppression.

Activists and protestors have gathered across the country to voice their outrage against the murders of Black lives including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others. Moreover, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Black communities are disproportionately affected.

As researchers at a STEM-focused institution, it can be easy to believe that the work we do is 'neutral' and 'objective'. This is untrue. It is impossible to disentangle it from politics and power dynamics - particularly because we operate in a society with systemic, institutionalized racism that permeates every aspect from academia to law enforcement to health care.

Infamously, STEM research has a deep-rooted history of being political and anti-Black. To counteract this, we urge non-Black graduate students to uplift Black voices, cite Black scholars, educate themselves on these important issues, and speak up about racism both at MIT and in society. Without action, we are complicit in upholding an unjust system that continually devalues Black lives.

Being antiracist means more than being non-racist - it means actively counteracting racism. Making change begins with unlearning racist habits, and acknowledging and reflecting on the privileges and biases we hold. It will require intentional, ongoing action. We must spend time reading resources about active allyship, practice those skills, and teach them to others. It is on us to educate ourselves and call out racism. We must do better to support and protect Black lives.

To our Black students - we recognize that you acutely feel recent events in ways that non-Black folks cannot understand. This profound emotional toll is exhausting and traumatizing. We value each of you as vibrant members of the community. We hope you are taking care of yourselves during this time and offer our sympathy and collective action.

Below are internal and external resources collected by the GSC Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) committee for students to learn about these issues and how to get involved and take action. As MIT graduate students, we have both the obligation and opportunity to do better. Let's fight for a more just, equitable society.

In Solidarity,

MIT Graduate Student Council Executive Committee  
#BlackLivesMatter

### Resources for Black Graduate Students:

- [Self-care tips for Black people who are struggling with this very painful week](#)
- [Emotionally restorative self-care for people of Color](#)
- [101 ways to take care of yourself when the world feels overwhelming](#)
- [Black healing gathering facilitated by Black therapists and artists](#) (free & online, June 9th, 19th, 23rd, 6PM EST)
- Black Emotional and Mental Health Collective: [virtual therapist directory](#)
- [Self-care mini-workshops](#)

### Resources for Antiracist Allies (as collected by the GSC DEI):

- General resources
  - Ways to Help: <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>
  - Anti-Racism: <http://bit.ly/ANTIRACISMRESOURCES>
  - Letters for Black Lives (with translations): <https://tinyurl.com/y87z9n8n>
  - In Defense of Black Life: <https://linktr.ee/showupnow>
  - [How to be Actively Antiracist](#)
  - [Guide to Allyship](#)
  - [Antiracist Ally Starter Pack](#)
  - [Support Black people](#)
- Reach out and offer support to Black friends, peers, colleagues in your community
- Donate to different fundraisers and sign petitions
  - Bail funds: <https://tinyurl.com/ybldk9uo>
  - [Mutual aid funds](#)
  - Petitions & Donations: <https://tinyurl.com/y9qnyzh2>
  - Petitions: <http://tinyurl.com/blmforever>
- Contact elected officials
  - President Obama's [How to Make this Moment the Turning Point for Real Change](#)
  - [AOC's thread on policy solutions](#)
  - [Pressley Demands Accountability in Police Brutality Resolution](#)
- Protest or support protestors
  - [How to protest safely during a pandemic](#)
  - [How to prepare yourself for a protest - and what to do if you end up in cuffs](#)
  - [How to gear up for a protest](#)
  - [How to support protesters in cities across the US](#)
  - [How to safely and ethically film police misconduct](#)
- Follow and support organizations doing work surrounding racial equity and justice

- NAACP: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Antiracist Research & Policy Center: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Marsha P. Johnson Institute: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Center for Black Equity: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Color of Change: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Equal Justice Initiative: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Showing up for Racial Justice: [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)
- Read books, papers and articles, listen to podcasts, watch films and shows that dive into racism (past and present), and facilitate conversations about racial equity and justice
  - [How To Be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
  - [Me and White Supremacy](#) by Layla F. Saad
  - [The 1619 Project](#) by Nikole Hannah-Jones
  - [So You Want to Talk about Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo
  - [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White people to Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson
  - [Understanding Race & Privilege](#)
  - [White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)
  - [The Diversity-Innovation Paradox in Science](#)
  - [Responding to Racism and Racial Trauma in Doctoral Study](#)
  - [Graduate students' agency and resistance after oppressive experiences](#)
  - [Bait and Switch: Representation, Climate, and Tensions of Diversity Work in Graduate Education](#)
  - [Anti-racism reading list](#)
  - [Black History Month Library](#)
- Raise awareness through social media and conversations with people
  - A sample of Black voices to follow and amplify: @reclaimtheblock, @blackvisionscollective, @nationalbailout, @nowwhitesaviours, @rachel.cargle, @IjeomaOluo, @BreeNewsome, @ckyourprivilege, @EbonyJanice, @r29unbothered, @strongblacklead, @ibramxk, @laylafsaad, @thegreatunlearn; #BlackInSTEM
  - Talk with your lab about [The Cost of Balancing Racism and Academia](#)
- Change your behavior and vernacular
  - [How to be a good ally to your Black friends](#)
  - [A Look at Implicit Bias and Microaggressions](#)
  - [Harvard's Implicit Association Test](#)
  - [Improving Online Dialogues About Justice and Equity in Climate and Science](#)
  - [Beyond the Hashtag: How to Take Anti-Racist Action in Your Life](#)
  - [Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race](#)
  - [10 Steps to Non-Optical Allyship](#)

**MIT Resources:**

- MIT Mental Health and Counseling: 617-253-2916 (days), 617-253-4481 (nights & weekends)
- Institute Community Equity Officer (ICEO): John Dozier, [jdozier@mit.edu](mailto:jdozier@mit.edu)
- Institute Discrimination and Harrassment Response Office (IDHR): [jdhr@mit.edu](mailto:jdhr@mit.edu)
  - [File a report](#) on incidents of discrimination and discriminatory harassment
- Office of Graduate Education: 617-253-4860, [grad-edu@mit.edu](mailto:grad-edu@mit.edu)
  - GradSupport: [gradsupport@mit.edu](mailto:gradsupport@mit.edu)
- GSC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee: [gsc-diversity@mit.edu](mailto:gsc-diversity@mit.edu)
  - Please feel free to send us any concerns or ideas regarding racial equity and justice on campus. We are also looking for students to get involved!