



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

May 30, 2020

A statement regarding the murder of George Floyd and the repetitive nature of racial brutality in the United States.

We as the East Tennessee State University Student Government Association Executive Team publicly deplore the murders of **George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade**, and **countless black men, women, and children** in our country.

We acknowledge the constant battle faced by the Black community not only in our country but also on our very own campus. Over the years, there have been racially charged incidents against our own students. From the defacing of property to scare tactics used against Black Lives Matter protestors; we condemn these racial injustices and stand alongside the Black community against the systemic racism that plagues our country.

In the words of John F Kennedy, “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.” While our hope is always that protests can remain peaceful, we understand and sympathize with the frustration of so many Americans, who time after time have been ignored in the actions of patience and peaceful assembly. It is well past time for fundamental reform in our society that encompasses policing and acknowledges the dark, complicated history of race in America. Anything less fails to address the core of why we arrived at this dire point.

As student government leaders, we are entrusted with the safety and protection of our student body. This includes the tenants of righteous justice and equity through which we must understand the diversity of experience that our students of different backgrounds face. In these pressing times, we must champion all ETSU students, especially those from the Black community who continue to lose brothers and sisters in what has been a devastatingly “normal” phenomenon.

Our country is not facing a simple political crisis. We are facing a moral one that threatens the very fabric of our humanity. What is the value of life? And do different standards of criminal justice exist simply on the basis of one’s skin color? If the current answer to those questions are as disappointing to you as they are to us, we call on the student body and the administration to join our campus community and the country in solidarity towards the common goals of liberty and justice.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our current situation, we encourage you to reach out.

Your Faithful Servants,

Shivam Patel- President

Seth Manning- Executive Vice President

Josie Ward- Vice President of Finance and Administration