

“We cannot play ostrich. Democracy just cannot flourish amid fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root amid rage. America must get to work. In the chill climate in which we live, we must go against the prevailing wind. We must dissent from the indifference. We must dissent from the apathy. We must dissent from the fear, the hatred and the mistrust. We must dissent from a nation that has buried its head in the sand, waiting in vain for the needs of its poor, its elderly, and it's sick to disappear and just blow away. We must dissent from a government that has left its young without jobs, education or hope. We must dissent from the poverty of vision and the absence of moral leadership. We must dissent because America can do better because America has no choice but to do better.” -**Thurgood Marshall**

[Read Justice Marshall's full speech](#), delivered July 4, 1992

May 31, 2020

Dear Marshall community,

The happenings of the past week have filled us with anguish, anger, and resolve. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery once again exposed the deeply entrenched, institutionalized racism of this nation, the over-policing of communities of color, the harmful rhetoric and actions of national leaders, and the disproportionate work placed on people of color, particularly Black people, to call for much needed change. All this is occurring at a time where these same communities are disproportionately affected by the current public health crisis due to institutionalized racism and unequal access to health services. At Marshall College, we understand these often-repeated dynamics and call on each of us to name what is happening, condemn all acts of discrimination and racism, reach out to one another, and work in coalition for the better America as envisioned by all of us, including our namesake Thurgood Marshall.

While we know what we must do, our beloved Marshall community is currently dispersed across the globe due to the ongoing public health crisis caused by COVID-19. Additionally, the end of our academic year is upon us: you are studying for finals and our seniors are preparing to graduate. Over the past week, so many of you have reached out to Marshall staff members and to each other to share your sadness, anger, fear, shock, anxiety, disbelief, overwhelm, helplessness, and uncertainty. We share these emotions with you and affirm all these emotions as valid.

As a community, we must look out for each other as never before. If you or someone you know needs additional support, please reach out to the Marshall leadership named below: we are here for you. University resources are also available to all students:

- [Campus Community Centers and Programs](#)
- [Counseling & Psychological Services](#), 858-534-3755

We hear the call from our students and our nation to examine the current moment and move towards action. We endorse the statements of the [University](#) and [TMC Student Council](#). As leaders of Thurgood Marshall College, in the spirit of Third and Lumumba Zapata College, we pledge our resolve to examine the ways anti-Blackness and racism are embedded in our society and at our university. We pledge our resolve to support university-wide efforts such as restorative justice, an inclusive curriculum, and increased resources for underrepresented students. Most importantly, we pledge our resolve to continue to support all students during this difficult time and to advocate on your behalf to the University's decision makers.

In solidarity,

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