

Dear Sheep,

The executive board and college staff of Shepard Residential College would like to, first and foremost, acknowledge the nationwide protests in response to the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless other Black Americans. We would like to affirm our complete support for the Black Lives Matter movement and for all those involved in demonstrations at this time. We are appalled at the brutality exhibited by police officers across the nation. Moreover, we condemn anyone who chooses to be complicit in the face of these egregious actions.

We urge members of our community to stand in solidarity with protestors and engage in activism to the best of your ability. Sympathy, at this moment, is not enough. We must actively be anti-racist in our words and actions and continually stand against injustice. Spreading awareness on social media and, if you are able, donating to organizations supporting the Black community are ways to contribute if you cannot take to the streets. We have listed resources below for how you can take action and receive support.

Beyond our support for this movement and for activists across the nation, we want to remind our community that Shepard is a resource for you. We recognize that the intensity of this situation, combined with the added stress of Coronavirus precautions, may be overwhelming for many of our residents. Not being on campus at this time, we feel it is essential to emphasize that our community remains intact and supportive of all members. In particular, we hope to encourage our community to support students who have been personally victimized by racism, profiling, and police violence. Shepard is committed to promoting anti-racist action on campus. We pride ourselves on being a multi-thematic residential college, but in our pursuit of academic diversity, we feel we have not adequately sought out racial and ethnic diversity. We hope to rectify this by recruiting more Black and POC fellows to join the Shepard community.

None of us on exec or staff can claim to fully understand the experiences of the Black community, but we strive to become better anti-racist allies and encourage this mindset throughout Shepard. If you have any thoughts or ideas that you would like to share with us, feel free to submit it through [this Google form](#) (submissions are anonymous for both students and fellows). If you have any suggestions for fellows we can welcome to our community, please also submit your recommendation in [the Google form](#). We hope that our community will hold us accountable and aid us in fostering an inclusive, supportive home at SMQ.

Remember to take care of yourselves and each other, and please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you need the support. *We are here for you.*

Sheep Love,
The Shepard Executive Board and College Staff

Resources:

[George Floyd Resource Compilation](#)

[BLM](#) and [Black Lives Matter at School](#)

[For Members Only's compilation of resources](#)

[Anti-racism Resources for White People](#)

[Non-Optical Allyship](#)

Safe Protest and Rights of Protestors: [Amnesty USA](#) and [ACLU](#)

Northwestern-specific resources:

[Black Student Affinity Space](#) June 2 at 6-7pm CDT (sign up [here](#))

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#) are available for telehealth appointments.

[Dean of Students](#) is available to support and connect you to more resources.

[Residential Services](#) staff are available to talk and help.

[Campus Inclusion and Community](#) offers space for care and support.

[Religious and Spiritual Life](#) host pastoral care appointments and programs.

The VP of Student Affairs, Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, is having Zoom office hours over the next few weeks for individual students to connect directly with her to share their points of view. You can sign up for a time by emailing vpsa@northwestern.edu. For students who do not wish to talk and would rather share their thoughts in writing, please send them to that same address.