



July 7, 2020

To the Liberate community,

Liberate is heartbroken and convicted over the suffering and violence faced by Black communities in America. As an organization that fights for social justice by providing scholarships and programming for at risk youth in Thailand, we realized we cannot remain silent on this issue. Our students, scholars, and mentors in Thailand have even checked in on us about what's happening in the United States.

In the wake of Breonna Taylor's, Ahmaud Arbery's, and George Floyd's murder in the United States and the militaristic and police response from our government, we stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. We recognize that White supremacy contributes to oppressive systems like the justice system, education system, health care system, and more - ultimately negatively impacting minority communities, especially black communities. We urge our supporters, and all members of the community, to participate in the Black Lives Matter movement with 4 meaningful actions:

- Listen to the experiences of Black communities
- Be cautious, careful, and intentional on social media
- Engage in anti-racist efforts within our communities
- Vote (if possible)

It is imperative that we listen to the lived experiences of Black communities so that we can better understand the historical and social contexts within which Black communities face racial injustice in America. For too long, we have been aware of racial discrimination but have not actively sought out Black writers, activists, artists, musicians, filmmakers, etc. Now is the time to listen to Black voices. Being willing to listen allows us to challenge our biases and further our understanding and growth. Only then can we be effective allies capable of working together toward lasting change. You can reference the Black Lives Matter Allyship Reference List [here](#) as a starting point.

Please be careful on social media. While social media is an excellent platform for activism, there is also plenty of misinformation being spread along with calls to performative allyship. We ask that you fact check and consider the impact you will be making before posting and sharing. Listen to leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement and follow the guidance of Black activists.



Have anti-racist conversations with friends and family members. For our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, this can be a difficult undertaking as we struggle with anti-Blackness in our own communities. [Here](#) are resources that can guide you on how to engage in open and honest conversations regarding racial justice while taking into account cultural differences among our respective communities. [Here](#) is another resource for how to talk to kids about anti-racism.

Perhaps the most important way to be an ally is by voting. We cannot stand idly by as our local, state, and national leaders incite hatred and violence and keep Americans divided. We are in desperate need of leaders who will listen to the plight of Black individuals, families, and communities, hold law enforcement accountable for police brutality, and unify our local communities and the country. Research candidates at all levels of government and head to the voting booth at every opportunity. We must come together and vote out leaders who do not support the lives and wellbeing of our Black fellow citizens.

Education is a key component of our work and we hope this letter provided you with resources that will help you navigate this time. We hope you all are safe and well, especially during this pandemic. We welcome any questions or comments. Thank you for your time.

Blessings,
Liberate Team
Luke, Shea, Kevin, Brooke, and Gabbie