Dear SEEK Students,

The Percy E. Sutton SEEK Program comes out of the history of the civil rights movement. Some of us thought these struggles were behind us, while others knew that institutional racism has not ended.

SEEK exists because its creators refused to accept racial, class and educational inequities, and demanded equal justice and fairness for all, regardless of skin color. This is the future we envision and strive to achieve. Our predecessors stood for equity, social change, and justice, and still today, we too believe that Black Lives Matter, and that it is our collective responsibility to not be content until there is justice for all.
We acknowledge your pain. It is real. You are not wrong for feeling it. We too mourn for the tragic death of George Floyd and for all black human beings who have died illegally, unjustly, and unnecessarily. We hear you, we see you, and we care about you. You are important, and so are your feelings.

We at SEEK stand for continuing social justice and social change. You are a part of that legacy. Though this struggle takes different forms, we stand united to make our vision of a future where people are not murdered for the color of their skin a reality - in our lifetime.

If you need additional support or want to talk, feel free to reach out to us any time.

In Solidarity,

The Percy E. Sutton SEEK Program Staff

HOW TO MAKE THIS MOMENT THE TURNING POINT FOR REAL CHANGE: A MESSAGE FROM BARACK OBAMA
As millions of people across the country take to the streets and raise their voices in response to the killing of George Floyd and the ongoing problem of unequal justice, many people have reached out asking how we can sustain momentum to bring about real change.

Ultimately, it’s going to be up to a new generation of activists to shape strategies that best fit the times. But I believe there are some basic lessons to draw from past efforts that are worth remembering.

First, the waves of protests across the country represent a genuine and legitimate frustration over a decades-long failure to reform police practices and the broader criminal justice system in the United States. The overwhelming majority of participants have been peaceful, courageous, responsible, and inspiring. They deserve our respect and support, not condemnation — something that police in cities like Camden and Flint have commendably understood. Read more here.
WE ARE THE ONES WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
WE ARE THE CHANGE WE SEEK.

-BARACK OBAMA
• The Assumptions Of White Privilege and What We Can Do About It

• ‘In Every City, There’s a George Floyd’: Portraits Of Those Speaking Out

• Our Mission Means More Than Ever
• Op-Ed: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar: Don’t understand the protests? What you’re seeing is people pushed to the edge

• Ways To Support The Black Lives Matter Movement

• Movement 4 Black Lives

• National Lawyers Guild

• The Bail Project

• Campaign Zero

• NAACP

• Equal Justic Initiative

• Race Forward

• Black Lives Matter

• Color Of Change

• Fair Fight

• The LoveLand Foundation

• American Civil Liberties Union

• @tyreebp
“Ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy justice can have.”

James Baldwin

TREVOR NOAH FROM THE DAILY SHOW SHARES HIS THOUGHTS

Trevor Noah from The Daily Show shares his thoughts on the killing of George Floyd, the protests in Minneapolis, the dominos of racial injustice and police brutality, and how the contract between society and black Americans has been broken time and time again. Watch here.
thedayshow George Floyd, the Minneapolis Protests, Ahmaud Arbery & Amy Cooper. “If you felt unease watching that Target being looted, try to imagine how it must feel for black Americans when they watch themselves being looted every single day. Police in America are looting black bodies.”
POWERSFUL SONG BY JOHN LEGEND, MELANIE FIONA, COMMON & THE ROOTS - WAKE UP EVERYBODY

You can watch the video on YouTube.

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