

Dear Political Science Students, Alumni, Instructors, and Staff,

Central to the discipline of Political Science is the study of power: who wields it, who is subject to it, and the relative legitimacy of how it is exercised. In 2020, it is clear that the United States is grappling with the disproportionate burdens of health disparities, economic precarity, and racial violence that fall on communities of color. The tragic murders of George Floyd in Minnesota, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, and Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, all in the span of a single semester, speak to the urgency of this current political moment. The disproportionate number of Latinx and African American New Yorkers that have fallen victim during the ongoing pandemic and the alarming increase in hate crimes against Asian American communities underscore the perilous state of race relations in this country.

We in the Baruch Political Science Department take great pride in the diversity of our student body. We affirm that Black Lives Matter. And we recognize that our pride comes with the responsibility to speak up for our students and faculty of color; to stand together in solidarity in the fight for justice and equality. We denounce the calls for violence against the peaceful demonstrations for racial justice that are sweeping across our city and the nation. We uplift the names and memories of the many victims of racist and structural violence, past and present. And we are committed to teaching, mentorship, and scholarship that embody the values of democracy, human rights, and anti-racism that lie at the foundation of our discipline.

Healing the open wounds of racial discrimination in this country will require work from all of us. A key part of this process is educating ourselves on the history and politics of race relations in the United States. In this spirit, we encourage you to take time this summer to read documents such as [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"](#) and [other historical context](#), to listen to podcasts such as [NPR's Code Switch Podcast](#) and [Public Radio International's The World Podcast](#), and to learn about [ways that you can safely contribute to efforts for racial justice in your community](#).

We send our wishes for health, safety, and peace for your families and communities in these times of fear and uncertainty.

Sincerely,

The Baruch College Department of Political Science