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**Warning: discussions of anti-Black racism and violence**

For immediate release.

**June 2, 2020: DSU Statement in Solidarity with the Black Community**

To Dalhousie Student Union Members and Surrounding Community:

The Dalhousie Student Union stands in solidarity with our Black members, staff, faculty, friends, and community members. We condemn all acts of anti-Black racism, discrimination, and violence. As an organization, we as the Dalhousie Student Union must not only acknowledge our role in the continuation of systemic oppression, but must join the fight against racism and anti-Black violence. We are privileged to have a platform, a voice, and a diverse membership. It is essential that we use this privilege to amplify the voices of our members calling out against incidences of anti-black racism.

Nova Scotia is home to centuries of oppression, and Dalhousie has played its part in the continuation of racial prejudice and discrimination, as examined in the [2018 report](#) on Lord Dalhousie's History on Slavery and Race. We acknowledge that our organization cannot erase these centuries of oppression, as we seek to be part of the fight against anti-racism and strive to provide space, voice, resources and opportunities to Black, Indigenous and racialized student advocates. The DSU will be donating \$500.00 to an organization working to address anti-black racism, and will be consulting with Black and racialized student societies to determine an appropriate organization.

The recent killings of Regis Korchinski-Paquet, George Floyd, D'Andre Campbell, Tony McDade, and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police in Canada and the United States are tragedies. The effects of this violence will continue to be felt across our community. We extend our condolences and solidarity to everyone impacted by these unjust deaths.

These are not isolated incidents. Police violence disproportionately affects racialized people across Canada. These deaths cannot be separated from the settler state and the continued violence against Indigenous people. Jason Collins and Eishia Hudson were both killed by Winnipeg Police in 2020, and Indigenous people continue to face fatal violence at the hands of police, which is rarely given due process, investigation, or any semblance of justice.

We stand in support with the arrest of Derek Chauvin, the officer whose actions led to the death of George Floyd.

We are joining the call for an independent, accountable, and transparent investigation into the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet. This investigation must take into account the institutional anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism and settler colonialism upheld by the Toronto Police.

Systemic racism and the inappropriate use of police force does not solely occur outside of Halifax. Last March, [a report](#) by the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission found that Black people in Halifax were up to six times more likely to be street checked than white people. Now, more than ever, we encourage our non-Black members to educate yourselves and each other about Nova Scotia's legacy of state-sanctioned violence against African Nova Scotians and Black individuals, from street checks to the destruction of Africville.

Now is not the time for us to be silent. We resolve to use our platform, resources, and collective sense of humanity and compassion to move beyond allyship, to meaningful actions of solidarity and support for our Black members. We encourage all members to stand with us and take meaningful action in solidarity against anti-Black racism.

In the coming days, we will be sharing links to resources and educational materials. In the meantime, we encourage you to stand in solidarity with Black communities and take the initiative to explore the many resources already available to you.

In solidarity,

DSU Executive



President Madeleine Stinson



Vice President Finance and Operations Isa Wright



Vice President Academic and External Erica Seelemann



Vice President Internal Hanna Stewart