

Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. 1732 1st Avenue #20267 New York, NY 10128 neb@hermandad-sia.org

Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc. stands in Solidarity with our Black Community

Hermandad de Sigma lota Alpha, Inc., is devastated and disheartened by the continued acts of violence and discrimination towards our Black community. As an organization, we stand in solidarity in the fight to dismantle the oppression that people of color continue to experience and combat. The events that have occurred and been brought to light over these past few weeks have been happening across this country to Black and Brown people for much too long. It is imperative to call attention to the pervasive culture of white supremacy in the United States. Oppression is not something that should feel normalized. This is **not** normal. This is **not** justice. This must change immediately.

Hermanas, now more than ever, we shall continue to stay united and take a stance together. We encourage our members to be proactive. There are several ways individuals can show support and work towards the fight to end injustice. We recognize that people have varying ways that they may choose to show support based on their comfort level. Additionally, we recognize that others may not know where to start. We will continue working to compile a more extensive list of opportunities to provide education and awareness. As a start, we have included a list of recommendations on how to show support in the movement for social justice.

- Report any act of hate, discrimination, or racism.
- Be a friend and provide a listening ear.
- Be open-minded to learning about the various levels of privilege and oppression.
- Research ways to get involved in your local community, including your workplace.
- Stay abreast on updates from organizations such as the NAACP, Black Lives Matter, Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, and other organizations taking the lead to end racially biased violence.
- Educate others on the importance of not using racially-targeted language, including friends and family.
- Vocalize your stance on why advocating for our Black community is important.
- Allow your voice the opportunity to be heard by partaking in petitions such as:
 - o <u>www.justiceforbigfloyd.com</u>
 - o www.standwithbre.com

Please note, we understand that several Hermanas are looking to support protests in their local communities. Although supporting a protest is an individual's personal choice, we strongly encourage those who plan to participate to be as safe as possible. Several protest organizers have provided strict guidelines to enter rally sites. Please be sure to review any guidelines *prior to your participation*.

We are reminded and hold true the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies ... but the silence of our friends." We will not turn our backs on our Black community during this urgent time. Black lives matter isn't just a chant, it's a call for justice. It's a call for our humanity to be recognized.

Should you have any questions, concerns, or recommendations, please email: NEB@hermandad-sia.org

In Solidarity,

The National Executive Board of Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc.