

To the IFC Community,

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, as well as other victims of police brutality and racially motivated attacks, weigh heavy upon this country. The protests we have seen in the last few days have clearly demonstrated that racism continues to be perpetuated and ever present in our institutions. It is a stark reminder that people with different skin colors face different realities, realities shaped for the worse by intolerance, bigotry, and hate.

We know that being silent is the same as being complicit. It is time to stop stalling, stop avoiding discomfort, and stop ignoring the systemic oppression that has benefitted the few at the expense of the many. We have people of all races, creeds, and cultures in our community; everyone is loved, and everyone is valued. Because of this, we will not idly stand by and passively let the system of oppression continue. To our black members, we see you, we love you, we support you, and we will stand with you.

There are practical steps that must be taken, beyond expressions of disappointment and anger, to ensure that we end the cycle of violence. From ensuring that law enforcement officers are held accountable for their actions, to educating ourselves and those we interact with on issues of race, to efforts to ensure diverse representation, there are many things to be done.

As a community of more than 1,000 brilliant, talented, passionate students, we have the power to influence and effect change. We are voices that cannot and will not be ignored. Our power lies in our community and our values.

With that in mind, we are taking the following concrete steps to do what we can to change the system:

We will donate \$5,000, to organizations that support protesters and aim to make a change. Currently, we plan to support the organizations listed below. If there are other organizations that you think we should consider donating to, please let us know:

Bail funds found here: <https://bailfunds.github.io/>

Black Visions Collective
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Campaign Zero

We are encouraging each and every one of our members to contact legislators and representatives and ask them for change. We have found a simple way to do this in the following webpage: <https://resist.bot/>. Please let us know if there are other effective ways to make our voices heard.

With the recent establishment of the new IFC Diversity Committee, part of its remit will be to make sure that the MIT IFC community is welcoming and inclusive to everyone with open arms. We will not stand for racism and intolerance, and want to make sure our efforts are designed to accomplish this goal. If you have ideas or would like to be part of this committee please contact Charles Coffey at ccoffey@mit.edu.

We encourage everyone to take the time to learn more about what is happening in our country and why is it happening and to seek out resources for change. Each person has power, and can make a difference.

Yours in solidarity,

IFC Executive Board