STATEMENT ON SOLIDARITY

Over the last few weeks, we have watched communities around the world express support for Black lives in the wake of the inexcusable and horrific killing of George Floyd in Minnesota. In Toronto, the Black community struggles to understand the death of Regis Korchinski-Paquet. Protests continue in the US, Europe, Asia, and here in Canada. Recently another Black man, Rayshard Brooks was shot and killed by an officer in Atlanta. These incidents of over-policing and police brutality are a symptom of the underlying systemic racism that the Black community faces on a daily basis, and has brought to the forefront the injustices and discrimination that have long been inherent in the US and in our own community.

As we hear more of these stories emerging, it is difficult, if not impossible, to comprehend the injustices suffered by the Black community for centuries, and the fact that these have continued largely unchecked to the present. It goes without saying that Korean Canadian Scholarship Foundation, as a charitable organization encouraging leadership and education, and dedicated to the work of developing young Korean-Canadians to find success in Canada and abroad, condemns racism in any form.

But that is not enough.

We stand in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters in their calls to break down a system inherently built on racist foundations and a system that continues to pit communities against each other. We call on our Korean-Canadian community to do the same.

KCSF charges all Korean-Canadians to do better to challenge anti-Black racism. Recognize our own anti-Blackness, sometimes taught and modelled to us by our own Korean-Canadian community. Confront prejudicial and discriminatory attitudes and behaviour within our families. Use the privileges afforded to us, in some cases built on the work of previous generations of Black Canadians in their fight for civil rights, to advocate for the Black community. Challenge the model minority myth and do not let that myth be used as a racial wedge between minority groups.

KCSF will be part of the collective voice that refuses to let the status quo remain, and we have started by reaching out to friends from the Black Canadian community to learn and listen how we can support the fight against racism. In the near future, we will create opportunities to confront these issues and learn how to support these efforts.

KCSF encourages our stakeholders to join us and donate to causes that are leading the fight against systemic racism:

- Black Health Alliance
- Black Youth Helpline
- Black Legal Action Centre
- Sentence and Parole Project
- Black Liberation Collective
- Black Lives Matter - Canada

Philip Cho
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