LETTER OF SOLIDARITY

Dear BLSA members,

The USD School of Law’s Middle Eastern Law Students Association (MELSA) stands in solidarity with BLSA members and the black community at large in the wake of Mr. George Floyd’s assassination. In support of the Black Lives Matter movement, we call for the arrest of the officers involved in Mr. Floyd’s murder. As members of a minority community, we empathize with your pain. However, we can only begin to imagine the stark reality faced by the black community in our country. George Floyd’s name has been added to the ever-growing list of black men and women who have been horrifically killed at the hands of law enforcement, or vigilantes that unjustly purport to enforce the law. And as aspiring lawyers, we recognize the importance of allowing people to practice their first amendment rights without fear of state retaliation. It is the responsibility of our entire community to fight against racial injustice.

Although statements in solidarity are a start, MELSA understands that it takes more than verbal support to make a lasting change. We are committed to advocating for racial justice and equality for all Americans, but we must specifically recognize the plight of black communities. We will continue to educate ourselves and others in the Middle Eastern community on the historical oppression of black communities, not just in the context of the United States but also in the Middle East, so to eliminate renditions of anti-blackness that exist within any of our communities. We will also provide resource support to BLSA. Using our own privilege as non-black people of color, we pledge to promote racial equality and ensure that black lives do not just matter. Black lives are valued, loved, and protected.

We join USD APALSA, USD La Raza, USD CLS, and USD WLC and invite other USD organizations to come together and actively condemn the racial injustices against black lives.

In solidarity,
MELSA Executive Board, 2020-2021
Salma Zinabidine - President