

Letter from the CRPHS Black Student Union

First and foremost, we want to keep George Floyd's daughter and his loved ones in prayer. Praying for their strength and for their tremendous loss.

Secondly, to the family of Cristo Rey Philadelphia, we pray that you all are safe. Safe, not silent.

We know there are many emotions surrounding the death of George Floyd and you are not alone in this. You have every right to be hurt, angry, and upset. You have every right to feel the loss of George Floyd, because with his death is the death of Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Alton Sterling, Nia Wilson, Breonna Taylor and the list of names that continue to grow.

You have the right to be scared, because we're scared. For those of you who have siblings, for those whose parents still work, for those who are scared for themselves because this country is influenced by hate and oppression. You have every right to be angry that you have to work ten times harder, that you have to shout ten times louder to be heard and that your success has to be ten times the average to get the slightest bit of recognition.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." - MLK. Although your anger is justified, actions based on anger separates people. During times like this, unity is very important; coming together as one and uplifting one another is a step closer to the change we want to create.

When we say that we hope you all are safe, we don't mean silent. Your voices deserve to be heard and your actions can have a tremendous effect. Now, your voice may not be down at city hall, but a repost or informing someone of the importance of the movement. Your action may not be taking to the street to advocate for change, but signing petitions and spreading awareness. Regardless of your race or background, every little action matters and every little thing makes a difference.

Know that we, the Black Student Union (BSU) of Cristo Rey Philadelphia, want to know how you feel and how you've been dealing with your emotions. We know that each and every one of you has the power and the voice to be the change you want to see, because we've seen how unstoppable you are when you're passionate about anything.

We are the change we wish to see. We are the future.

You matter. Your family matters. Your lives matter. Black lives matter.

Carol Baird, BSU President

Jahnyah Jacobs, BSU Vice-President