

Letter from the CRPHS Latinx Student Organization

With the current state of our world and our city, we wanted to send a message of support and love for you all. In times like this we feel that it is important to stand united as minorities. At Cristo Rey we are a family that comes in many different colors, forms, and backgrounds. We all have our own unique stories of trials and tribulations that stem from the hate that is still deeply rooted in our world. The only way we can overcome hate is through love, acceptance, and awareness. We are stronger together than we are alone, so we must support one another in circumstances of race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual identity and much more.

On May 25, an unarmed black man, George Floyd, was murdered at the knee of a white Police Officer in Minneapolis, MN. This is not the first instance of police brutality in America. May he and those before him rest in peace and obtain the justice they deserve. This injustice has plagued many minority communities, but specifically the Black community for quite some time. This has brought about and amplified the Black Lives Matter Movement all across the country and the world. Black Lives Matter is an international activist movement, originated in the African American community, that campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards black people.

Protests across the country erupted in response to not only George Floyd's death, but the many deaths at the hands of police brutality. For the past three days, we've seen it here in Philadelphia. There have been many instances of rioting and looting within our city. As Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "A riot is the language of the unheard." There is no more silence. We come together to speak out against the injustices and effects of systemic racism in our society. If any of you have been physically participating in these protests, we urge you to stay safe and remember the cause for which we are fighting.

As members of the Hispanic and Latinx communities in America we often face injustices and discrimination at the systemic level. We understand you. We hear you. We feel you. We walk with you. Once again, we will not be silent and complacent while Black Americans face deadly oppression. We will say their names and educate ourselves. All lives cannot matter until Black Lives Matter.

We are not black, but we see you. We are not black, but we hear you. We are not black, but we mourn with you. We are not black, but we will fight for you. We are not black, but we stand with you.

With Love and Solidarity,
Laylah Santiago and Mia Velez