

Office of Inclusion: Multicultural and LGBTQIA
Student Services

IMQ Community,

The pain of many Americans is on display this week as loss of human life resulted in agony, anguish, heartache, arrests, protests, civil disobedience and more suffering. Each and every day, members of our community live the experiences being broadcast on our phones and our televisions. The outcry of the community is steeped in grief and exhaustion from watching again and again and again and again the 'isms' of society take away the inalienable rights that are supposed to be our American birthright.

In the past three months, we have witnessed our Tribal Nations lose community members at heightened numbers due to pre-COVID gaps in access to healthcare. We have witnessed our Asian American community suffer in fear as they are taunted and unfairly targeted. We witnessed our Black Community lose their lives in vicious and inhumane ways and at the hands of those we entrust with the duty to protect. Our Black community, Latina/o/x community, Hispanic Community, Native American Community, Pacific Islander Community, Asian Community, LGBTQIA Community... Our Communities are calling out, crying out for the right to live without fear.

It has taken our office some time to respond because we are all in so much pain. The words are hard to form when you witness such tragedy and loss. For days, we tried to formulate a response that expressed our hurt, our outrage, our sympathy, our fear and our anguish. We are dealing with the personal pain, carrying the pain of our students and focusing on how we can heal so we can help our community to heal. We implore you to open your hearts and minds, hear the pain of our brothers and sisters. Listen actively and use your position of privilege to help us change the lived experiences of those suffering injustice.

How do you use your privilege? Every day, not just when tragedy befalls us. We implore you to use your privilege today and tomorrow when the moment has passed and a new story is reported on the headlines. We implore you to use your privilege everyday so that the names of our brothers and sisters do not continue to become hashtags. We implore you to use your privilege now to advocate for those whose voices are silenced from the 'isms'.

Our hearts, our minds, our thoughts, our strength, our blessings and our prayers of peace are with each and every one of you.

~The Office of Inclusion: Multicultural & LGBTQIA Student Services