



**JOSHUA R. NEWTON**  
**Senior Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Engagement**



Dear AAE Colleagues,

I write to acknowledge a series of horrific events that continue to rise to the center of public consciousness. Among them are the tragic murders of two African American men, George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN and Ahmaud Arbery in Glynn County, GA, and an African American woman, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, KY. Though acts of injustice and violence towards African Americans and other minorities are unfortunately not new, these recent incidents serve as yet another reminder that we must remain steadfast in our commitment to equality. Too many times, we see or hear of violent cases of racial injustice. Some of these violations of justice make it to the public sphere leading to protests and calls to action. It is also known that many more of these injustices are daily occurrences silenced by privilege, ignorance, and apathy.

We must not lose sight of how to best advance the conversation and see the lines of injustice erased. I am committed, as the leader of our division, to confronting these issues head-on. On Wednesday, I communicated with our colleague Dr. Carol Henderson, Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion; Chief Diversity Officer; and Adviser to the President regarding my plans to send this message to our AAE team. I am grateful for her work at Emory and for her many contributions to our community. I will join Dr. Henderson and others on June 5 at 4 p.m. in a vigil sponsored by the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life in partnership with Campus Life. Details can be found on the attached poster.

Additionally, I have asked the Office of Engagement, Communications, and Marketing to augment our upcoming summer webinars to include a series of programs to help guide and further discussions that address racial justice topics. We have a lot of hard work to do across this nation, as we seek to dismantle racism and overcome injustices in all forms. While I believe in Emory's motto that "The wise heart seeks knowledge," I also firmly believe that a wise heart also seeks justice and equity.

If you need support, please know that we are here for each other. Do not hesitate to reach out to your AAE colleagues, including members of our HR and Leadership teams, or to utilize the resources of FSAP or the Office of Spiritual and Religious Life.

Though we may be working remotely, we are a community that looks out for one another.

Best,  
Josh

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