



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Office of Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion

We Are Here For You

Colleagues:

I hope this message finds you and your families well and safe.

As our nation continues to respond to and adjust to our new reality in the face of COVID-19, and as we celebrate the wonderful achievements of scholars across the nation and here at Emory who have persevered through these unprecedented times to complete this academic year—it is incumbent upon us to pause to acknowledge and stand in communion with the Arbery family, who are grappling with the horrific and senseless killing of their son, Ahmaud. Our hearts grieve with them. Ahmaud's killing reminds us that our society still has much work to do regarding the personal and social prisms through which we view the humanity of others. It also makes clear that the entitlements of some, can be the death of others. Therefore, we must continue to create space for growth, reflection, self-awareness, understanding, and healing within our own Emory community. We must continue to have courageous conversations about those things that fray our human fabric—about those things that run counter to our human and institutional ideals of justice and justness, equity and fairness. As Bryan Stevenson reminds us, “We all have a responsibility to create a just society.” I would encourage each of us who is a part of this network to do a pulse check in your communities. See how your colleagues are doing. Find out what resources they may need for assistance. It is critical that we continue to connect one to another even as our current predicament has us physically distant.

I have also heard from members of the Emory community who continue to be impacted by Ahmaud Arbery's killing. Ahmaud would have been 26 years old on Friday. Many walkers and runners around the world walked or ran 2.23 miles in his honor—symbolizing February 23, the day he died. Others are empathizing with Arbery's mother, Wanda Cooper, who will experience her first Mother's Day without her son. As a mother myself of a beautiful, intelligent, gracious son who is my life's joy, the egregiousness of this killing takes my breath away. Whatever your connection to this killing, please know that we are here for you, and we encourage you to connect with Campus Life, FSAP, the Office of Spiritual and

Religious Life, Laney, or your college's or school's academic leadership to find kinship in your grieving.

In closing, may we remember that we are One Emory—stronger together than apart. What impacts one impacts us all. May we never forget that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. May we not become so complacent or desensitized in our everyday lives that we don't care what happens to others unlike ourselves. And may we continue to hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people deserve life.

Be well.

Dr. Carol E. Henderson

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