



February 9, 2021

As we enter the second week of Black History Month this year, the APUS Executive Committee have found ourselves reflecting on the events of the past year. In the midst of a global pandemic, we remember the Black organizers that continued to work and advocate against the ongoing anti-Black violence locally and internationally. We remember the marches, the riots, the international call to action. We also continue to remember the lives lost to anti-Black racism:

Breonna Taylor. George Floyd. Regis Korchinski-Paquet. Tony Dadez. Ahmaud Arbery.

We have not forgotten, the fight continues.

As we begin to navigate another challenging year, the systemic root of anti-Black racism in established institutions continues to be made clear by recent events locally and abroad, including the insurrection at the United States capitol. We mourn alongside the Black community and demand justice for the lives lost to anti-Black violence. We know that these lives did not need to be lost. We know that our institutions and organizations have the power to implement changes that centre anti-racism education, policies, and practices. Instead, we continue to hear the same colonialist arguments as to why these practices cannot be implemented, reinforcing the stronghold of anti-Black racism in our communities. We still feel the same frustration we shared back in June 2020 in response to the police murder of George Floyd, and we continue to echo the Black community's anger and exhaustion.

At the same time that we remember and mourn, we cannot forget that Black History Month is also a time to celebrate Black lives, to lift up Black voices, and to honour Black resilience. We are excited about the conversations and events that we see happening in our own community thanks to student-led organizations like the Black Students' Association (BSA). We are fortunate this month to be able to collaborate with BSA on several events, which you can find below:

- Black Love Soul Café - Saturday, February 13, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Community Discussion: The Gentrification of Black Neighbourhoods – Thursday, February 25, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

We are also excited to be working the Black Research Initiative to Empower (B.R.I.T.E.) on an international celebration of Black art with a special Taarab online concert.

As we celebrate Black power, we highlight again that the work that stems from student-led organizing in the movement against anti-Black racism is invaluable. We also want to thank the Black community for sharing their experiences, their knowledge, and their work with us. For those of us who are not from the Black community, we continue to commit ourselves to unlearning the ways that we may be unknowingly contributing to anti-Black racism in our thoughts and actions. Black History Month is yet another spark to action, and we dedicate ourselves to continue advocating for the eradication of anti-Black racism in our institutions and organizations.

In solidarity,

The Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students