



**To our fellow Asian activists and community members:
a statement of allyship to Black Lives Matter & Not Another Black Life**

Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS) stands in solidarity with Black folks around the world, with the families and communities to which Regis Korchinski-Paquet, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery belonged, and with the many others who were and continue to be victims of unjust policing systems.

Black Lives Matter.

We recognize the entrenched history of anti-Black racism perpetuated within and by Asian communities. While we continue to work with East and Southeast Asians, Black Asians, and racialized folks to address stigmas against people living with HIV and support LGBTQ2+ communities, we must remember that anti-Black prejudice and acts of anti-Black violence are everywhere. Many of us benefit from structural and institutionalized systems that empower us, intentionally or not, but at the same time also disempower so many Black, Indigenous and People of Colour groups. We must continue working together to overturn this reality, and recognize that even when our efforts strive towards racial, ethnic, gender, and class equality, even when we actively advocate and utilize practices that are grounded in social justice and human rights, such as harm reduction strategies, many Black folks in particular are left behind and actively barred from participation. We will work continuously to ensure that our policies, conduct, organizational culture, and institutional supports actively address these facts.

Black Lives Matter.

Let's continue to promote discourse within our Asian families and communities about white supremacy, the model minority myth, internalized racism, colourism, insidious and disguised racism, small and large in/actions that make us complicit, and the ways we benefit from the labour, struggle, and creativity of Black folks. Let's not tolerate anti-Black sentiments, whether implied or spoken. Let's encourage donations in support of causes that protect, build up and honour Black lives; check in with Black friends with whom we have genuine and deep connections; take actions to support them; ask ourselves how we benefit from systems that disrupt, derail and destroy the lives of Black folks; and speak up about them to our loved ones, government representatives, employers, and fellow constituents. Of course, we do this with safety first in mind.

Black Lives Matter.

Let those who take action every day against anti-Black and Brown and Indigenous racism be an example to us, whether they are part of our own communities or not. Let us help facilitate healing and solidarity with humility, ensuring that we do not speak for those to whom we should be listening. And most importantly, let's listen to Black folks. Let's keep learning and doing better, thank you to the ongoing labour of countless voices like Sandy Hudson (@sandela); Desmond Cole (@DesmondCole); Syrus Marcus Ware (@syrusmarcusware); Robyn Maynard (@policingblack), Katherine McKittrick (@demonicground), and many, many more.