

UCI Sorority & Fraternity Life

ac·count·a·bil·i·ty

/əˌkoun(t)əˈbɪlədē/

noun

the fact or condition of being accountable; responsibility

If any term should be synonymous with 2020, it wholeheartedly should be pandemic. The start of this year began with the coronavirus which quickly throttled the way people interact and behave. Last week, another pandemic found itself tragically in Minneapolis where many witnessed the death of another unarmed Black man in **George Floyd** by the police. This pandemic has killed individuals like **Philando Castile** in Minnesota, **Sandra Bland** in Texas, **Oscar Grant** in California, **Michael Brown** in Missouri, **Tony McCade** in Florida, **Eric Garner** in New York, **Breonna Taylor** in Kentucky, **Tamir Rice** in Ohio, **Rekia Boyd** in Illinois and many others. The pandemic impacting countless Black men and women nationwide is systemic in nature and can be described as oppressive, racist, and anti-Black at its core.

Sorority & Fraternity Life is disgusted, sick, tired and frustrated with Black communities being systemically overlooked and being further subjugated. In solidarity, we send our condolences and say Black Lives Matter. Systems that encourage anti-Blackness or work to further silence are unacceptable. Seeing so many chapters in the community take the activism on shows a core principle on display of our organizations in accountability. Change to existing systems like racism can only begin with a personal responsibility to speak against injustice. For many, the question of "what can I do?" can be answered by [donating](#), looking to vote, [signing petitions](#) and other [calls to action](#), join and safely participate in various movements or read and educate yourself.

To Black community members: BLACK LIVES MATTER. Know that you are seen, heard and loved. Continue to hold each other up and encourage one another as this affects our community. Although this is not a new phenomenon, this is an opportunity to look at new action and ways to bring change to the movement.

To non-Black community members: BLACK LIVES MATTER. Know the appropriate ways to use your privilege and channel your energy appropriately. Telling those who are hurting how to feel and react is counterproductive. Keep yourself accountable and look to educate yourself and others where possible. The implementation of change starts in the conversations with yourself and if you consider yourself an ally who is committed to creating inclusive environments, not just on campus but in society, SFL challenges you to reflect on your role in reinforcing institutions of oppression that do harm to various communities. Hold yourself and others to the higher standards set forth in your SFL organization and as student-leaders. Do the work for the future leaders that come behind you.

Student Life and Leadership has sent out communication on the efforts of the unit to address existing concerns and laying the groundwork to further meet community wide anguish with positive action. To all, do what you need to protect your peace and overall energy in what has been a tumultuous year. If you need a space for additional dialogue, validation, or even reflection please don't hesitate to reach out to SFL staff by our visiting [office hours](#), utilizing the [Counseling Center](#) or many other offices.

Lastly, send any additional resources that you believe are beneficial to the SFL community but continue to have dialogue and act in ways that uphold your commitment to change.

In Solidarity,

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