Over the last few weeks, we have seen graphic stories and images of the murders of unarmed African Americans, including Ahmed Aubrey, George Floyd, Tony McDade, Sean Reed, and Breonna Taylor. It’s easy, for those of us from a certain privileged vantage point, to dismiss these events as specific to another place, another city, another state. But historical precedent is clear that these actions are neither isolated, nor restricted to certain locations. Last night, in our own city, people protested to share their anger, grief, and sadness for the senseless loss of many Black lives.

The grief is especially raw for the Black community and communities of color who may not feel safe even just driving a car or going shopping. One cannot contemplate what it also means to add these senseless, violent acts to communities already reeling from the disproportionate effects COVID-19 has brought.

While we may all hope that something good will come out of this latest act of violence and racism, right now we are faced with an undeniable truth. Black communities and communities of color navigate a very different world from that experienced by White people, one that is often rife with hate, bigotry, and racism. That reality should be front and center in our conversations about these issues.

Over the next year, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be co-hosting a series of social justice teach-ins. The first of these discussions, focused on anti-black violence, will be held virtually on June 12, facilitated by an Ethnic Studies faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. That conversation will be followed by break-out groups to provide space for smaller community-specific discussions. Further details are forthcoming.

We, as an institution, stand by our values and goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion. These must be embraced now, more than ever. To our Lynx community: we are here for you. We are committed to providing a safe, trusted, and inclusive space and will continue to do everything to ensure these issues are heard. Please show support for your communities and leverage our campus and community resources below should you so choose.

If you have an imminent concern for your safety or the safety of others on campus, please call the Auraria Police Department at 303-556-5000 from your cell phone or 911 from a campus phone.

Campus Resources:
It is vital that we work together to ensure our campus is a welcoming and respectful space. We want you to know that you have a variety of resources designed to support you, many of which are listed below.

- **Office of Equity**
- **CU Denver Student and Community Counseling Center**
- **Auraria Campus Crisis Hotline**: 303-615-9911
- **CU Denver Ombuds Office**: 303-315-0046

Resources Specifically for Students:

- **Dean of Students**: deanofstudents@ucdenver.edu, 303-315-7310
• Center for Identity and Inclusion
• Office of Case Management

Resources Specifically for Faculty and Staff:

• Office of Human Resources
• REAL Help Hot Line: 833-533-2428
• Colorado State Employee Assistance Program (CSEAP): 844-493-8255

Community Resources for Everyone:

• Colorado Crisis Line
• National Crisis Hotline: 844-493-8255