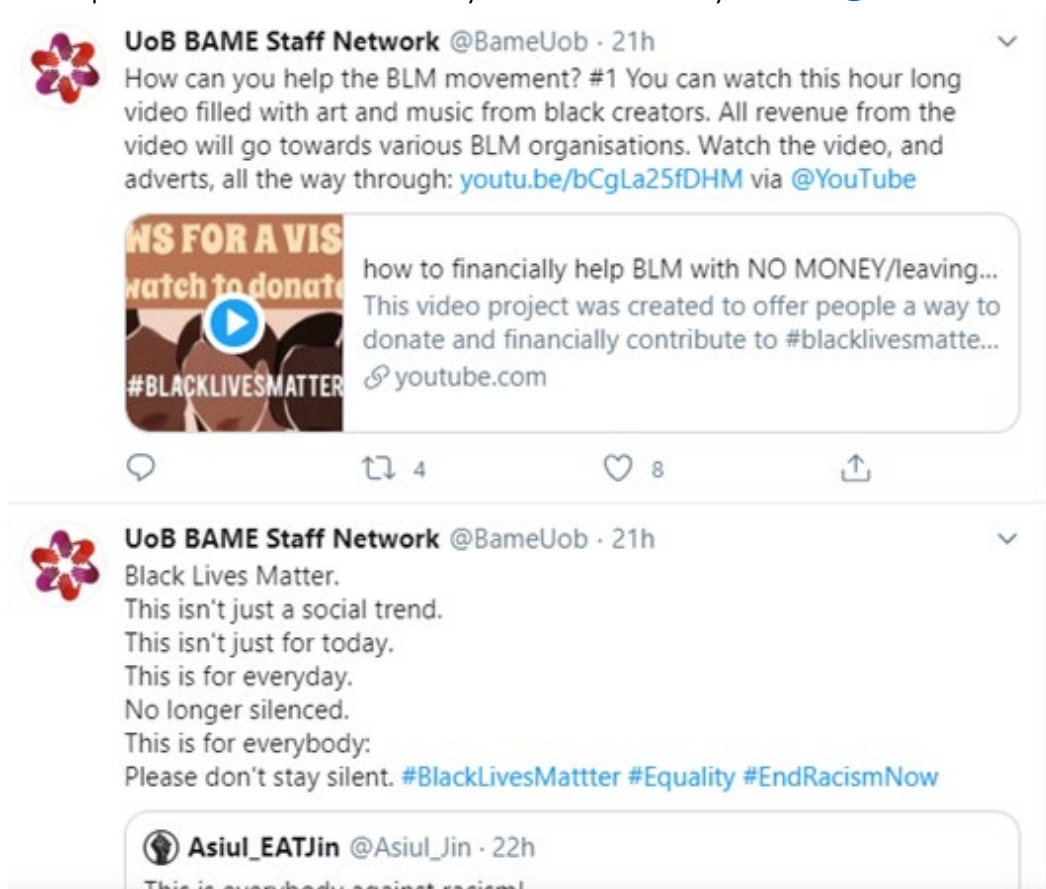


From: bamestaff@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Subject: Black Lives Matter - always! BAME Network Statement
Date: 04 June 2020 14:41:33
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[George Floyd.docx](#)

Dear Members,

We are not going to be silent about the brutal murder of yet another Black man - George Floyd - whose death by ex-police David Chauvin was graphically played out for the whole world to see. The killing of black people by officers who are sworn in to 'protect and serve' becomes a 'normalised' activity because **Black Lives Don't Seem to Matter**. We are all feeling hurt, anger and despair as justice for George Floyd and for all those black lives taken away for talking, walking, driving, shopping, praying or just standing. This affects us all.

Tuesday 2nd June was Blackout Tuesday and the Network via Aishah Ali (Communications Lead) posted on the Networks Twitter feed – some examples are shown below. If you don't already follow [@bameuob](#):



On Wednesday 3rd June 2020, the Network contacted Sheena Griffiths – Equality and Diversity Adviser and Jo Duberley, the Deputy Pro-Vice

Chancellor for Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion. Natasha Nelson wrote:

I was actually really disappointed that the University didn't post anything on social media or via email yesterday to staff and students. A number of universities have also published their statements on their webpages too. I saw lots of other universities, and know a fair few also sent all staff/student emails out. Yesterday was obviously #blackouttuesday and #blackoutday2020 and was the day that the most activity and content was pushed out to have the most impact.

Emails went back and forth and a statement from the Deputy Pro—Vice Chancellor was forwarded to the co-chairs of the Network. We felt strongly that it did not provide a powerful message of support. We have been asked to work together to produce further statements. In the meantime, we felt it was important to take action for ourselves and we could best do this by sending out this update.

So what can you do?

➤ **Donate:**

You can donate to George Floyd's family directly via [GoFundMe](#) - Set up by Floyd's sister, the page asks for donations for funeral costs, counselling and legal assistance and to assist the family as they attempt to navigate their grief amid the high profile and traumatising nature of his death.

➤ **Sign up for:**

[Black Lives Matter](#) - Founded in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman after the death of Trayvon Martin, the organisation continues to fight for justice for black people who have been victims of violence 'by the state and vigilantes'.

Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/george-floyd-police-violence-usa/>

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➤ **Sign Petitions** - [signing petitions](#)

➤ **Watch:**

Trevor Noah – Commentary on George Floyd and Racism in the USA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4amCfVbA_c

Alice Cooper and White privilege

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/26/us/central-park-video-dog-video-african-american-trnd/index.html>

➤ **Read:**

The George Floyd information sheet devised by Beverley Maynard (attached)

[*"How to be an antiracist"*](#) by Ibram X. Kendi

[*"White Privilege"*](#) by Kalwant Bhopal

Recommend this to white friends and colleagues with children -

<https://www.mother.ly/child/raising-race-conscious-children>

➤ **Write to:**

Jo Duberley j.p.duberley@bham.ac.uk and the Vice-Chancellor via his Senior Executive assistant Charlotte Jones c.k.jones@bham.ac.uk to voice your concerns or talk about your own experiences. Tell your colleagues to do the same too, the more people who get in touch, the more impact it may have.

Write to the Network at bamestaff@contacts.bham.ac.uk and write on your social media accounts using the hashtag #blacklivesmatter.

➤ **Protest today:**

**BLM BIRMINGHAM
DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE**

4--4

4:00PM: START--PEOPLE BEGIN ARRIVING AT
VICTORIA SQUARE

4:30PM-5:30PM: CHANTING

5:30PM- 6:30PM: MUSIC, SPEECHES AND
POETRY

6:30PM-7:00PM: LIE-DOWN (DIE-IN)

7:00PM-8PM: CHANTS + SPEECHES

8PM: FINISHED



**Need support or a safe place? Then contact us at
bamestaff@contacts.bham.ac.uk. Black Lives Matter!**

Best Wishes

**Beverley Maynard and Natasha Nelson
Co-chairs BAME Staff Network**