

Dear Penn State Community,

In this past week alone, there have been multiple acts of unjust violence against the black community that have continued the longstanding discourse and action against racism around the world. Our hearts break for the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and the many other individuals that should still be here with us today. We must not let their names be forgotten or their stories go untold.

As a disease, cancer does not discriminate and as an organization, neither do we. THON's diversity efforts have grown over the last few years, but we still have work to do. There is a powerful movement spreading throughout the nation, and we must be a catalyst for change here in our own community by having conversations with all students to establish a more inclusive plan of action. THON is committed to supporting every member of the Penn State Community however we can and are holding ourselves accountable to this goal. We are actively listening – we see you, and we are here with you, always.

The most important thing we can all do now is take time to educate ourselves, to listen to our peers, and to ask the tough questions. It is crucial that we are all knowledgeable when it comes to the history of racial injustice, and how to directly create change moving forward as supporting a movement does not warrant remaining silent. There are petitions that can be signed, relief funds that can be supported, and ways to treat every single person with the respect and kindness that they deserve.

We must fight hate with radical love to end this cycle of systemic racism. I encourage you to continue to speak up and peacefully make it known that there is no place for discrimination anywhere, especially in our shared Penn State Community where every cub deserves to be a Nittany Lion. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

For The Kids,

Katie Solomon

THON 2021 Executive Director

THON is a student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. Our mission is to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness and ensure funding for critical research — all in pursuit of a cure.