

ClassACT

Achieving Change Together

In his recent letter to the Harvard Community, President Larry Bacow wrote: *“In the midst of this incomprehensible loss [COVID-19], our nation has once again been shocked by the senseless killing of yet another black person—George Floyd—at the hands of those charged with protecting us. Cities are erupting. Our nation is deeply divided. Leaders who should be bringing us together seem incapable of doing so.”* You can find President Bacow's entire speech to the Harvard Community [here](#).

Since its inception, ClassACT HR73's core mission has been to bring classmates together to address important local, national, and international problems by creating positive change. In our short history, over 300 classmates have joined forces to strengthen human and civil rights. From working with JusticeAID as it supported prison reforms, to helping promote STEM education for minority youth, to supporting principled leadership in the Muslim world, to providing service to classmate organizations addressing social injustice and human needs, ClassACT has embraced the need for change. We will continue to champion addressing these profound, often intractable challenges.

Within the spotlight of the events of the past week, we join together to embrace human rights, civil rights, and take a stand for racial justice and equality for ALL. For the sake of our American society, our American culture, and to the day to day lives of every person who lives here, the inalienable rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” need to

extend to every person.

Donna Brown Guillaume and Sylvester Monroe are working with ClassACT to develop a Zoom Forum to bring us together to promote understanding of the history and issues surrounding social injustice and racial inequity in our country, and to continue the dialogue.

In addition, over the past few days, Black and civil rights leaders across the country have promoted work on free and fair elections as a key element in the fight against systemic racism. Last summer we created the [ClassACT Voter and Civic Engagement Initiative](#) to provide a vehicle for us to work together to address the issues in our society relating to voting rights and the lack of civics education that endanger American democracy. 20 classmates have joined our steering committees. In April, over 200 people participated in our Zoom Forum on [Voter Suppression](#), and we continue to promote and raise awareness for the work of our partner, [JusticeAid](#). Stay tuned for information on the JusticeAid and Riverside Church Public Forum on Voting & Voter Suppression, premiering June 14th on YouTube.

We hope you will continue to support ClassACT's initiatives and each other as we move forward. If you have not yet been involved with ClassACT, we will welcome you. If we all work together, we WILL make a difference. Please join us!

With hope,

The ClassACT Board

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