



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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A STATEMENT ON RECENT RACIALLY DRIVEN ATTACKS AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

(Fairfax, VA—September 7, 2016)

Patriots,

Over the past month, two racially-charged incidents have occurred at American University; in one, rotting bananas were left at the door of a Black female student, and in another rotting banana peels were thrown at another Black female student. George Mason University Student Government stands in solidarity with the Black students of American University and condemns racist or discriminatory acts against Black bodies. We condemn this as an attack on a college campus, and one close to ours as well. We condemn this because we recognize this is not an isolated incident or the only one of its kind. We condemn this as we recognize that our Black classmates and colleagues are beleaguered with each attack, and we also share responsibility to speak up against racism and injustice and do our part to create inclusive and equitable spaces.

Students who have experienced an attack can file an incident report with the **Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Multicultural Education (ODIME)** at <http://odime.gmu.edu/bias-incident-report-form/>. For a formal complaint, contact the **University's Office of Compliance, Diversity and Ethics** (<http://integrity.gmu.edu/>) and the University Police (www.gmu.edu/depts/police), as appropriate. From Student Government, you can contact any of us via our contact information. Student Government's office can be found in the Office of Student Involvement in the HUB, and is open for students to walk in and either talk to us or leave us a message during the office's normal business hours. SG's Diversity department is here to hear from you all on how we can continue help prevent these acts from happening here at George Mason University; we want to be proactive and take a stand. We can be contacted during our Diversity Committee meeting time on Mondays at 4:30 pm, or by speaking to us individually. Student Government is constantly trying to improve its involvement on this issue: if you have any questions, thoughts, or comments, please contact us!

We affirm again that Black is beautiful. We affirm our support for Black bodies, for Black female bodies. We recognize we still have much to do, but we are here to do whatever is needed. To ignore these attacks, to ignore the role we play in propagating them, is to prefer a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice. We must take a stand against discrimination and in support of our friends and colleagues.

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