



Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.  
- **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ACS COMMUNITY,

Our hearts go out to the family of George Floyd for their tragic loss. The American Community School of Abu Dhabi collectively stands with the world, reflecting upon human injustice and systemic racism faced by communities of color in the United States. The events happening in the U.S. are affecting us all.

We believe that everyone should be able to live safely and explore their fullest potential to change the world. Guided by our core values: Courage, Curiosity, Compassion, and Integrity, we support human dignity. As a culturally diverse K-12 school of more than 50 nationalities, we are dedicated to leading courageous conversations for the purpose of driving positive change. What does that mean?

We are an **AMERICAN** school committed to all that it represents. We strive to embed in our curriculum topics of social and economic justice, as this is an integral part of preparing students to become global citizens. We are aware, like the rest of the world, there is more work to be done. ACS needs to be more intentional in our discussions about how racism adversely affects black people and communities of color in the United States and around the world.

**COMMUNITY** is more than just a word for us. It is being part of something greater than ourselves. Anchored in our diversity, the spirit of service to others drives our work, our families, and most importantly our students. From supporting contracted workers on our campus to partnering with local schools serving Syrian refugee families and children with special needs, and taking action against global human trafficking, we stand together for justice and voices that are not being heard.

As a **SCHOOL**, we are holding true to our mission and vision by being a compassionate, student-centered community of learners that engages, prepares, and inspires. We are equipping our students with tools to handle acts of racism head-on, whether directed at them personally, towards a friend or toward others. We are taking responsibility to educate our community about anti-racism, and most importantly empowering our students to use their own voices to stand up for equity, compassion, and justice!

We are hopeful and proud of our high school human rights club for taking action on social media, we are heartened by our teachers who are speaking to students in their classes about these issues, and we are excited by this afternoon's open forum for high school students and faculty, "Peace to Power", presented by our K-12 Counseling Team. We have also gathered essential resources below, that we hope will serve as a starting point for you to have important conversations with your children.

These are just the first steps we will be taking to learn, heal and grow together. We are "one" ACS Community, made up of many diverse cultures and nationalities. Our courage, curiosity, compassion, and above all, integrity will help us navigate these courageous conversations with one other.

**We are hopeful that the actions of people around the world, including our own, will result in a better world in the future.**

**ACS SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Monique Flickinger, Superintendent  
Dr. Victor Guthrie,  
Asst. Superintendent  
Amy Greene, HS Principal  
Karl Poulin, MS Principal  
Dr. Jonathan Johnson, ES Principal  
Dr. Jennifer Ricks, Dir. of Curriculum  
& Prof. Learning  
Kenny Macaulay, Athletic and  
Activities Director

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**Important Resources for  
our Families:**

- [Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race](#)
- [Curated, Age-Appropriate Resources](#) from our K-12 Counseling Team