



Dear Ryerson Engineering Community,

The Ryerson Engineering Student Society, like many of our community members, is deeply saddened by the recent acts of racism that have taken place around the world - especially those that took place in Minneapolis. We are writing this statement to express our anger, frustration, sorrow and heartfelt condolences to the family of George Floyd, and the countless families who have lost loved ones due to anti-Black racism. The despicable actions in communities here and around the world against people of colour and marginalized groups will not be tolerated nor accepted.

Toronto, like all cities around the world, is not immune to the effects of racism and injustice in its community. With each unfortunate loss, the calls for action and change grow and multiply, only to be ignored by those in power. To all those fighting to be heard, we hear you, and we stand with you. Side by side, country to country, community to community, we stand together united for change. At RESS, in Ryerson Engineering community, and around the world, there is absolutely no place for racism, bias, or discrimination against anyone.

In order to acknowledge our differences and accept that we as engineering students do not know, or have all the answers to today's problems, we ask our community to join and help us better understand and address issues within our own community. Today, the Ryerson Engineering Student Society will be releasing a community survey. We ask that all Ryerson Engineering students visit eci.ress.ca to complete our anonymous survey. Together with our community partners, the Office of the Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion, the National Society of Black Engineers (Ryerson) and EngOUT we will be reviewing this information and working towards addressing the concerns of all our members. We have also released additional resources on our website and provided some below for everyone to better understand the challenges faced by many members of our community and provide support to those who need it most.

Ventura Nobis Est, the future is ours by design. Together we will design a future where every human exists in peace and harmony. Where the colour of your skin, the neurons in your body, or beliefs in your heart shall not hinder your future but provide you with the unique ability to succeed. In engineering, we believe that it takes a family of skills, interests and invaluable experiences to accomplish the task and we ask that communities realize the same. Our differences give us strength, while similarities provides us comfort. Together we stand with all who want justice, change and peace in society, this is our chapter, let's make every page count.

Sincerely,

The Ryerson Engineering Student Society



Organizations to donate to:

- [Black Lives Matter - Toronto](#)
- [Black Legal Action Centre: Home](#)
- [Black Youth Helpline \(Canada\)](#)
- [Black Women in Motion](#)
- [Minnesota Freedom Fund \(Minnesota, US\)](#)
- [Reclaim the Block \(Minneapolis, Minnesota, US\)](#)
- [Black Visions Collective \(Minnesota, US\)](#)
- [Unicorn Riot \(US\)](#)
- [North Star Health Collective \(US\)](#)

Books to Read:

- [Alex S. Vitale: The End of Policing](#)
 - “This book attempts to spark public discussion by revealing the tainted origins of modern policing as a tool of social control. It shows how the expansion of police authority is inconsistent with community empowerment, social justice— even public safety. Drawing on groundbreaking research from across the world, and covering virtually every area in the increasingly broad range of police work, Alex Vitale demonstrates how law enforcement has come to exacerbate the very problems it is supposed to solve.” - Goodreads
- [Joe Macaré, Maya Schenwar, and Alana Yu-lan Price: Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?](#)
 - “What is the reality of policing in the United States? Do the police keep anyone safe and secure other than the very wealthy? How do recent police killings of young black people in the United States fit into the historical and global context of anti-blackness? This collection of reports and essays (the first collaboration between *Truthout* and Haymarket Books) explores police violence against black, brown, indigenous and other marginalized communities, miscarriages of justice, and failures of token accountability and reform measures. It also makes a compelling and provocative argument against calling the police.” - Goodreads
- [Ijeoma Oluo: So You Want to Talk About Race](#)
 - “In *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Editor at Large of The Establishment Ijeoma Oluo offers a contemporary, accessible take on the racial landscape in America, addressing head-on such issues as privilege, police brutality, intersectionality, microaggressions, the Black Lives Matter movement, and the "N" word. Perfectly positioned to bridge the gap between people of color and white Americans struggling with race complexities, Oluo answers the questions readers don't dare ask, and explains the concepts that continue to elude everyday Americans.” - Goodreads



- Safiya Umoja Noble, *Algorithms of Oppression*
 - “In *Algorithms of Oppression*, Safiya Umoja Noble challenges the idea that search engines like Google offer an equal playing field for all forms of ideas, identities, and activities. Data discrimination is a real social problem; Noble argues that the combination of private interests in promoting certain sites, along with the monopoly status of a relatively small number of Internet search engines, leads to a biased set of search algorithms that privilege whiteness and discriminate against people of color, specifically women of color.” - Goodreads

- Desmond Cole, *The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power*
 - “A bracing, provocative, and perspective-shifting book from one of Canada's most celebrated and uncompromising writers, Desmond Cole. *The Skin We're In* will spark a national conversation, influence policy, and inspire activists. In his 2015 cover story for *Toronto Life* magazine, Desmond Cole exposed the racist actions of the Toronto police force, detailing the dozens of times he had been stopped and interrogated under the controversial practice of carding. The story quickly came to national prominence, shaking the country to its core and catapulting its author into the public sphere. Cole used his newfound profile to draw insistent, unyielding attention to the injustices faced by Black Canadians on a daily basis.” - Goodreads

- Robyn Maynard, *Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present*
 - “Delving behind Canada's veneer of multiculturalism and tolerance, *Policing Black Lives* traces the violent realities of anti-blackness from the slave ships to prisons, classrooms and beyond. Robyn Maynard provides readers with the first comprehensive account of nearly four hundred years of state-sanctioned surveillance, criminalization and punishment of Black lives in Canada.” - Goodreads

Movies/Series/Documentaries to Watch:

- When They See Us (2019)
- 13th (2016)
- Explained: The Racial Wealth Gap (2018)
- Time: The Kalief Browder Story (2017)
- The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (2017)
- Ferguson: A Report From Occupied Territory (2015)

** Disclaimer** This does not represent the full list of resources available, rather a few we have listed to help you further educate yourself on these matters.