

As soon as this week, we anticipate learning the jury's verdict in the trial of former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who is charged with the 2020 killing of George Floyd.

I know that many in our community will be anxiously awaiting the verdict and will see the outcome as a referendum on systemic racial injustice and policing. This event and the many others that have been highlighted over the past year have put a necessary spotlight on the centuries-long effort to dismantle racism in the U.S. and abroad. This complex issue is not one that will be put to rest by any single verdict.

While the Chauvin verdict is at some level a U.S. matter, the issues of structural inequality and racism extend far beyond the U.S. borders. I encourage everyone in our community to continue to engage in thoughtful dialogue and conversation, examining the ways that racism impacts structures and systems around the world. Jackson will continue to connect U.S. civil rights to the global human rights imperative through courses like "Global Black Lives Matter Movement." I'm also working on partnering with YLS to co-sponsor panels to discuss the issues of policing, racism and systemic inequality. Stay tuned.

Engaging with these issues is hard – at least for me, and I suspect I'm not the only one. The well-being of the Jackson community is my top priority and I am here for anyone who wants to talk. Additionally, the University has resources that you may find helpful and I have listed them below.

One of the most inspiring elements of Jackson is our community. I'm proud that Jackson is playing an important role in the solution – fiercely combatting inequity and injustice in global public policy. We'll get through this together.

Jim

University Resources:

- [Belonging at Yale](#) (University updates will be posted here.)
- [Yale Mental Health & Counseling](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program \(Counseling and Support Services\)](#)
- [Yale Chaplain's Office](#)

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