To the attention of Oxford University leading staff,

I am writing to enquire what the University is doing to support its Black students and to urge you to take action.

I feel incredibly concerned for the welfare of my fellow Black students during this time. As you are probably aware, there has been an influx of news about racial injustices in the USA and also here in the UK. It's incredibly painful for anyone to watch videos of innocent civilians dying at the hands of those who are supposed to protect us, so I can't even imagine how it must feel for members of the Black community. What's more, the recent data released by the government has proved what we all knew, that the effects of COVID-19 fall on racial and ethnic minority groups disproportionately.

The momentum of the Black Lives Matter movement is, of course, a great thing for everyone- as a result of public outcry, George Floyd's murders have been charged and Brianna' Taylors case reopened. However, I urge you to consider the effects it is having on the welfare of Black students at your university. I don't think its an exaggeration to say it is traumatising to witness members of your race being murdered for the colour of their skin with no consequences, and being constantly reminded that the world views your skin colour as a threat. I know some of my friends are struggling to focus and even sleep, yet they have received no support from their tutors or the University.

The University recently released a statement on social media stating 'we're committed to supporting our community in opposing racism in all its forms, including upholding anti-racist values'. I would like to know what exact measures the University has taken to support its Black community and uphold anti-racist values. I can propose a few recommendations:

- Grant Black students some form of mitigating circumstances for their exams, or at least encourage them to apply for it.
- Hire Black counsellors specifically to deal with the welfare issues that arise from facing constant microaggressions in a majority White institution.
- Momentarily reduce the workload- which a few tutors have actually done- so that people can grieve and process current world events without guilt.
- Urge all staff and students to sign petitions (*see below a fantastic resource)
- Donate to organisations aiding the Black Lives Matter protests or other related causes.

*The following resource contains a checklist of a wide range of actions that can be taken to support the Black Lives Matter movement, from emails and petitions to donation websites. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x65xLdIUDWMUl4_nkuD-EeP98UuJ2nuknUDsqUm7R9s/htmlview?usp=drivesdk&pru=AAABcqLkI6I*At-gPFQA-jvAhnByX_VsSA&fbclid=IwAR2cRMbiQtDWWUzMRgoecrKxWY5Ee700CXuQqKeNhjQ4ywzUmIVhM-I8QVw

I sincerely hope the University's statement was not an empty gesture and I look forward to hearing what actions will be taken to oppose racism and support all members of our community.