



**Statement from Queens College Student Association President Zaire Couloute on  
Denouncing Anti-Semitism and Supporting Collective Struggle**  
*President Couloute seeks to unite students behind collective struggle through understanding*

As the Queens College Student Association President, I strongly stand in affirmation with our Jewish brothers and sisters in denouncing the hate and pain caused by anti-semitism. On Wednesday, October 14th, The Office of Student Life and Leadership hosted an event to discuss systemic racism and inequality with community activist Ms. Tamika Mallory, a strong advocate and ally of the Black Lives Matter movement. The event was held to hear the voices of hundreds of black and brown students who are pained by racial intolerance currently in our nation, on George Floyd's birthday, to learn what more we can do to fight against racial injustice.

As a student body, we exist as an association to create space for students to share their pains with the larger student body and learn about the different experiences students have on campus. However, intersectionality should always be considered. I think the struggle that many of our students have undergone due to their race, religion, and class are struggles we can all understand because at some point, no matter where we come from, and no matter where we are from, we have been affected by one of the listed struggles. As a student-led organization, our goal is to educate and learn about students' struggles and inform the larger student body and leaders' next generation. However, as a student body, we never want any students to feel left out and silenced. Although it wasn't meant to hurt students on campus, it did. We hear you, and we will do our best to work on building bridges of intersectionality between every race, religion, class, and orientation and represent them in and out of Queens College.

That is my promise to the students of Queens College, to keep fighting for their voice. As a student of color, I know what it feels like not to be heard, I hear you, and I will make sure that the Student Association does our best to include all voices in all of our programming to ensure that all feel welcomed, accepted, and seen on this campus. In times like these where the future is uncertain, we have to come together and be the pillars that students can rely on, be the voice that each student can depend on, and I hold myself to that standard. Anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, homophobia, and other various discriminatory practices are and will never be allowed on our campus, especially in this very organization made for and by the students.

As students of Queens College, I hope that you all know that you're not alone. Day in and day out we work together just like the students who participated in Mississippi Freedom Summer. Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner and James Chaney went to Mississippi to help register black and people of color to vote; however, they were lynched by the KKK. We acknowledge this history of unity, strength, and liberation. To this very day, students fight for names like George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. When the black lives matter movement happened, we felt the presence of Rabbi Sara, and it spoke volumes not only to me but to the students of color on our campus. We have come a long way, and we have strides to go, however, through collaboration, conversation, and hard work, we will get there, and we will get there together. More needs to be done on this campus and the issues around racism, if we all come together the work can get done to make a more equitable campus for all people of color and marginalized communities.

Sincerely,

Zaire Couloute  
Queens College Student Association