

Dear Temple Rome community,

As an American institution in Rome committed to diversity and inclusion, we cannot remain silent as events in the United States are unfolding in response to the death of George Floyd. It is our duty to uphold our values and to actively oppose acts of racism and discrimination. Such problems are not unique to the United States. We have witnessed the loss of many lives on the shores of Italy, as well as mistreatment of migrants and minorities. We at Temple Rome have been actively engaged in fighting stereotypes and discrimination. As an educational institution we have a powerful tool in our hands to change mindsets and to promote our values.

Our Culture and Identity Envoy Program created by Ewan Johnson (2017 alum) aims to amplify underrepresented students' voices, including the ones of black students, and to create a cross cultural understanding of global issues, such as social justice. Our alumni and envoys Dorian Diaz, Jennifer Hall, and Alissa Roach [shared their experiences](#) as black female students in Italy and Cahleb Derry (Spring 2019 alum) [shared his experience](#) as a black and queer student in Italy.

During our orientation, we discuss race and gender – a tradition inspired Dinsio Walo-Wright (2018 alum) who is no longer with us, but her legacy lives on. In addition we hold annually various initiatives such as holding seminars and workshops and celebrating Black History Month. This year we invited local black artist Boris Akeem Aka and Afroitalian activist Ada Ugo Abara.

We are committed to continuing these and other initiatives, actively promoting diversity and inclusion, and educating our students and our community on the value of a diverse and inclusive society. We ask you to stand with us and stand up to the values we hold so dearly.

Sincerely,



Emilia Zankina

Dean

Temple University Rome