Why BLUE LIVES MATTER is Problematic

Statement from a group of CSUF students

The problem with “Blue Lives Matter” is that it’s impossible to respond to succinctly. It creates an opposition to “Black Lives Matter”, an “us or them”, a polarity that was never meant to exist. “Blue Lives Matter” creates a situation wherein Black civilians are a hostile enemy and a false equivalence wherein born, inescapable racial tensions are tantamount to the chosen profession of “police officer”. The problem with “Blue Lives Matter” is that it implies police are in indescribable, in constant danger, that their legal permissibility and their guns and batons mean nothing. The problem with “Blue Lives Matter” is that it’s missing the point. Black & Brown civilians do not want to place police lives on a sacrificial pyre in exchange for their own. They want to escape systematic, historic, institutionalized and normalized violence that comes at a price for being POC. In a reality where Black & Brown civilians are disproportionately killed in the United States, “Blue Lives Matter” coopts and appropriates a matter of life or death, a matter of indisputable racism, a matter of who is holding the gun.

Statistics

Unarmed victims of police killings are more likely to be minorities

Lawmakers in 14 states have introduced at least 32 bills proposing that members of law enforcement be included in hate crime protections — like those received by people of color, religious minorities and members of the LGBTQ community — since the beginning of the year, according to an analysis of state legislatures by The Huffington Post.

Back the Blue Act of 2017

The bill would create new federal crimes, impose federal police over the will of local officials and voters and shield police officers from virtually any civil liability, even in cases of egregious misconduct.

Statistics

From January 2010 through September 2010 the National Police Misconduct Statistics and Reporting Project recorded 3,814 unique reports of police misconduct that involved 4,966 sworn law enforcement officers and 5,711 alleged victims. No institutional or nongovernmental organization keeps comprehensive, quantitative data about the number of victims of police-perpetrated sexual violence, but some organizations do track news accounts. Source: Cato Institute, the National Police Misconduct Reporting Project

This flyer is only to start conversation on how “Blue Lives Matter” is wrongfully coopting Black Lives Matter. There is much more to be discussed and we encourage more dialogue. Please check out organizations that specifically address police brutality. Also, always remember, BLACK LIVES MATTER.