

## **In Light of Recent Events at the U.S. Capitol 1/6/21**

Our hearts and minds are weighing heavy in light of the violent assault that broke out in Washington D.C. as a result of domestic terrorism and insurrection. A peaceful and constructive transition of power is a vital pillar of our American democracy; thus, we are deeply concerned and appalled by what has happened in our Nation's Capitol.

The unprecedented situation in Washington D.C. reminds us of what occurs when there are systems that exist in our country whose actions incite violence, promote systemic racism, and inequitable power structures. The differential treatment between peaceful Black Lives Matter protestors and armed rioters is one reflection of this system of oppression.

While this is a disturbing reality, we as students must stand firm and condemn such inequities as well as continue to support the civic and democratic engagement process. We find ourselves in a significant historical juncture at this time where the choices we make today define not only our character but the integrity of the core values we stand by to protect the rights of all citizens.

We encourage everyone to stay safe, reflect on what has taken place, and engage in discussions that promote both understanding and healing during this turbulent time.

**Sincerely,  
Your Associated Students (2020-2021)**

*Jasmine Jaspreet Bhardwaj*

**AS President**