July 8, 2020

Dear NFL and the Washington Football Team -

We are living in an unprecedented moment of solidarity, and people across the country have come together to take a stand against racism in any form. In the past few days we have seen Nike and Walmart remove all Washington Football team gear from their website and yesterday FedEx, the Washington Football team sponsor, asked you to remove the mascot!

The fight to end the use of racist mascots, imagery, and names is next.

This has been a decades long fight with scientific studies proving that Native mascots have direct negative effects on Native Americans and they activate, reflect, and/or reinforce stereotyping and prejudice among non-Native people. It is not and has never been an honor to use this imagery in sports.

Only changing the name is not enough. As artists and entertainers, we ask that you immediately end the use of Native mascots, team names, insensitive gestures and the subsequent racist behavior of fans – starting with removing the Washington R*dsk*ns mascot and name. As long as all Native mascots continue to be allowed in the National Football League, any actions taken to end systemic racism will fall short. It cannot stand.

Racism is racism.

Lauren Ambrose, Actress
Katie Aselton, Actor, Director/Producer
Ceci Bastida, Musician
Alison Becker, Actress
Coby Brown, Musician
Dan Bucatinsky, Actor/Writer/Producer
Liz Cackowski, Actress/Writer
Minnie Driver, Actress/Singer-Songwriter
Josh Elliott, Television Journalist
MaryElizabeth Ellis, Actress/Writer
Liz Flahive, Playwright/Producer/Writer
Brandon Flynn, Actor (13 Reasons Why)
Dawn-Lyen Gardner, Actor (Ava DuVernay's Queen Sugar)
Kaia Gerber, Actor/Model
Jon Gordon, Author
Diane Guerrero, Actor (Orange is the New Black and Doom Patrol)
Sam Handel, Director
Chelsea Handler, Actor/Comedian/Writer/Producer
Colin Hanks, Actor/Director
Kate Hart, Author
Shantira Jackson, Actor/Writer
Gillian Jacobs, Actress
Jewel, Singer-Songwriter
Sarah Jones, Writer/Performer
Miranda July, Director
Jenni Konner, Writer/Producer/Director
Heidi Lindelof, Advocate
M1, Musician (dead prez)
Catherine MaCord, Actress/Television Host
David Mandel, Executive Producer
Matt McGorry, Actor/Activist (How To Get Away With Murder and Orange is the New Black)
Sarah McHale, Actress
Lauren Miller, Actress
Mystic, Musician
Ahna O'Reilly, Actress
Kelly Oxford, Writer/Director
SuChin Pak, Correspondent/Writer
Jamie Patricof, Producer
Busy Philipps, Writer/Actor/Activist
Rain Phoenix, Singer-Songwriter
Retta, Comedian, Actress
Mark Ruffalo, Actor/Director/Producer
Kendrick Sampson, Actor, Co-Founder, BLD PWR
Kelly Sawyer, Model
Alexis Simpson, Actress/Director
Karla Souza, Actor (How To Get Away With Murder and Amazon Prime's El Presidente)
Kylie Sparks, Actor
Chris Storer, Producer/Director/Writer
Chamberlain Staub, Filmmaker
Amirh Vann, Actress/Musician
Milana Vayntrub, Actor/Comedian
Kulap Vilaysack, Actress/Comedian/Writer
Jasiri X, Musician, Executive Director of 1Hood Media
Taika Waititi, Writer/Director/Actor