

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

The recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and Tony McDade are just the latest examples of anti-Black police violence, state-sanctioned lynching, torture, and unjust incarceration that began over 400 years ago—part of the foundation of our country.

As faculty and staff of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Houston, we join the Graduate College of Social Work and others on campus, in expressing solidarity with those protesting against White supremacist police violence and systemic racism around the country and the world. We condemn the continued and widespread police brutality against peaceful protestors of the past weeks and affirm protestors' demands for transformation. As anti-racist feminist scholars, activists and educators, we affirm our ongoing commitment to teaching courses on anti-Black racism, prisons, policing, and their history, at home and abroad.

Although the Minneapolis officers responsible for George Floyd's death have been arrested and charged, case-by-case solutions do not adequately address structural problems or create systemic change. We call for wider action, including defunding of police budgets, increased accountability and reinvestment in community-building measures like health care, education and wage equity.

As community-engaged scholars, we renew our commitment to working against anti-Blackness in our communities and toward racial justice, repair, and equity. *We invite you to join us.*

Support:

Local Organizations:

Black Lives Matter Houston (<https://www.blmhouston.com/>)

Houston Bail Fund (<https://www.houstonbailfund.com/>)

Pure Justice (<https://purejustice.org>)

ACLU Texas (<https://www.aclutx.org>)

Restoring Justice (<https://www.restoringjustice.org/>)

National Organizations:

Black Lives Matter Global (<https://blacklivesmatter.com>)

The Movement for Black Lives (<https://m4bl.org/about-us/>)

This is not an exhaustive list – some of these links include additional resource information.

Educational Resources:

NCTE.org There Is No Apolitical Classroom: Resources for Teaching in These Times

<https://ncte.org/blog/2017/08/there-is-no-apolitical-classroom-resources-for-teaching-in-these-times/?fbclid=IwAR1VYMN-sewUhk3nl6cPQDqWpbbX6cKg1qVtp7tWHvrT7BlrynI6BoCCpc4>

Scaffolded Anti-Racist Resources:

<https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1PrAq4iBNb4nVlCtsLcNIW8zjaQXBLkWayL8EaPlh0bc/mobilebasic>