

We, the undersigned in the Department of Philosophy at California State University Northridge, lift our voices in solidarity with Black Lives Matter

and with protestors across the nation and across the world. We denounce the murder of George Floyd at the hands of police officers in the Minneapolis Police Department. We denounce the murder of Breonna Taylor at the hands of police officers in the Louisville Police Department. We denounce the murders of Tony McDade, Laquan McDonald, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Botham Jean, Amadou Diallo, and countless others, all at the hands of law enforcement officers. We denounce the violent and abusive responses of law enforcement, local and federal governments, and government agencies to these murders and to protests of police brutality. We denounce the criminalization and harassment of people of color. We reject the insipid responses of law enforcement and government agencies to the continuing threat of racist harassment and violence. We remember Ahmaud Arbery, Sandra Bland, Jordan Davis, Trayvon Martin, and the countless others whose deaths were facilitated or whose killers shielded by white supremacy. We denounce white supremacy in all its forms—individual, institutional, systemic—and we denounce its influence on governments at all levels, on government agencies of all sorts, on law enforcement and law enforcement officers, on educational and religious and civic institutions, on the media, on corporations and other businesses, and on individuals in the United States and around the world.

We recognize that racism and white supremacy are systemic and pervasive, and that these often intersect with other forms of systemic oppression, including misogyny, ableism, heterosexism, and transphobia. We see the exceedingly harmful effects that these systems have in the United States on people of color, on indigenous communities, on members of the LGBTQ community, on those whose first language is not English, on disabled persons, on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, on the poor, on those experiencing homelessness and housing precarity, on women, and on those who do not identify as Christian. We recognize that our discipline, philosophy, has historically perpetuated and participated in those systems, and we pledge to work tirelessly to uproot and dismantle them in our Department and in the larger institutions of which our Department is a part. More specifically, we make the following commitments:

We commit ourselves to dialogue with administrative leaders regarding CSUN's relationship with law enforcement and law enforcement recruiting.

We commit to anti-racist practices in our research and our pedagogy. Our students and colleagues will hear messages of anti-racism, equity, and justice from us, both inside and outside the classroom.

We pledge to center the lived experience of those who are harmed by racism, white supremacy, and intersecting systems of oppression. We will do all that we can to promote equity and justice in our Department, at CSUN, and in our world.

We pledge to develop processes of accountability for the above commitments. In 2020, our Climate Committee will take up this work. What we learn and what we do as a department will be made publicly available.

Signed,

Tim Black
Robin Muller
Valerie Giovanini
Shanta Wallace
Jacob Hale
Erick Jimenez
Bonnie Paller
Vladimir Kalugin
Jim Kellenberger
Sarah Hansen
Kristina Meshelski
Mesaly Neway
Ronald McIntyre
Mitch Herschbach
Adam Swenson
Moosh Morelli
Birgit Tregenza
John Birmingham
Gregory Velazco y Trianosky
Sindhuja Bhakthavatsalam

(Signatories are listed in the order of signing and without indication of rank or position)