

Statement of Solidarity from the Women's and Gender Studies Program Faculty

June 4, 2020

El Paso, TX

As feminist scholars and people of conscience, the faculty of UTEP Women's and Gender Studies condemns the murder of George Floyd, white supremacy, and the extrajudicial killing of people of color. Law enforcement officers, police and border patrol agents, have killed most recently, George Floyd in Minneapolis, Ahmaud Arbery in Brunswick, Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Sergio Hernández Guereca in Ciudad Juarez-El Paso, Atatiana Jefferson in Fort Worth, Michael Ramos in Austin, José Rodríguez in Nogales and others. We recognize and bemoan the long history of intersectional oppression that informs the militarization of law enforcement and the over policing of Black and brown communities, including our own. We will continue our teaching, research, and other forms of feminist praxis, and will use these mediums to call for and work towards justice for the families and communities of the murdered as well as the radical liberation from systemic racism. We acknowledge that Black Lives Matter and stand in solidarity with those working to end anti-blackness.

As members of a binational community on the U.S.-Mexico border, we have experienced the ongoing presence of law and border enforcement in our communities. We share the outrage and collective grief experienced by our African American brothers, sisters and non-binary siblings and denounce the excessive use of force and brutality committed by law enforcement officers. We express our interracial solidarity in efforts that seek justice, transparency, and resolution in our communities.

Participation in daily experiences such as walking, running, driving, and existing in our skins should not be the reason for losing our lives. As faculty of Women's and Gender Studies, we commit to confronting multiple expressions of fear, openly listening and talking about race and racism, creating safe spaces to discuss and confront institutional racism, and inviting people of color to represent themselves in their own voice and agency. We offer our continuous support to our students, faculty, staff, and community members in efforts to inform, educate, engage, and create the spaces and opportunities for our communities to be seen, heard, and respected in peace, justice, and human dignity.

In solidarity,

Faculty from the Women's and Gender Studies Program at UTEP.

Abbreviated List of Recommended resources:

Online resources:

Understanding Race Project, American Anthropological Association:
<https://www.understandingrace.org/>

Racial Equity tools:

www.racialequitytools.org/home

Podcasts:

Still Processing episode on Kaepernick

White Lies (NPR)

Whistling Vivaldi (NPR)

Articles:

Walking While Black by Garnette Cadogan

The Case for Reparations by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Why Seeing Yourself Represented on Screen Is So Important by Kimberley Lawson

75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

Resources for White People to Learn and Talk About Race and Racism

Books:

How to be An Antiracist by Ibram Kendi

The Fire Next Time by James Baldwin

History of the United States by Howard Zinn

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America by Ibram X. Kendi

White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack by Peggy McIntosh

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria by Beverly Tatum

I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown

Whistling Vivaldi by Claude Steele

White Awake by Daniel Hill

Videos:

5 Tips for Being an Ally

Interview about I'm Still Here

Interview about White Awake

Movies:

The New Negro

Just Mercy

Daughters of the Dust