

June 2, 2020

SUNY Stony Brook UUP West Chapter Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

### **Statement on Anti-Black Violence and Systemic Racism**

We condemn the murders of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd. We say their names. We condemn the threatening of Christian Cooper with police violence by a white woman in Central Park. We condemn the long history of structural anti-Blackness and racist policing that led to these and too many other violent incidents and deaths. We say without qualification #BlackLivesMatter.

We recognize and are in solidarity with the rightful anger and collective grieving of the Black community on Long Island, in Louisville, Tallahassee, Brunswick (GA), Minneapolis, and globally who are protesting the results of state-sanctioned violence, systemic racism, and carceral society. We reject the rhetoric that ranks the loss of Black lives below that of profit and property.

While police violence and anti-Black racism have been more visible over the past week, we know that this is not new.

Our priority in this moment is to provide support for our students, faculty, and staff who have been subjected to anti-Black violence, who resist it, and who thrive in spite of it. This means that in this time of increased police surveillance and militarization, we offer our energy and resources to support our colleagues on the front lines, at home, and in community. At the end of this document there is a list of organizations working at the intersection of anti-racism, prison abolition, and Black liberation, and we ask our members to support them now.

Our second priority is to work toward dismantling the racist structures that produce anti-Blackness in the first place. This is a long term project but one that must begin with us, here, now. Like all institutions of higher education, Stony Brook University is built on stolen Indigenous land and benefits from the stolen labor of Black people. Our commitment to justice must begin from that premise. We raise our collective voices and harness our networks of solidarity to make change and end the systematic oppression of those who have been and continue to be marginalized.

In solidarity,

SUNY Stony Brook UUP West Chapter Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

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## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### PETITIONS and PHONE CALLS

- **Breonna Taylor** - [https://justiceforbreonna.org/Sign the petition](https://justiceforbreonna.org/Sign-the-petition) (supported by her family)
- **Tony McDade** - <https://www.change.org/p/black-lives-matter-activists-justice-for-tony-mcdade>
- **Ahmaud Arbery** - <https://www.runwithmaud.com/>
- **George Floyd** - Call [Minneapolis County Attorney Michael Freeman](#)  
[GoFundMe to support George Floyd's family](#)

### ORGANIZE, VOLUNTEER, DONATE

If you have access to wealth, consider donating to organizations and projects that are sustainable and community driven like:

#### Local

- [Erase Racism](#) Long Island
- NYC [DEFUND THE POLICE, FUND OUR COMMUNITIES!](#)
- [Suffolk County Human Rights Commission](#)

#### National

- [Black Lives Matter](#)
- [Southern Poverty Law Center](#)
- [Color of Change](#)
- [The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls](#)
- [NoName's Book Club](#)
- [Black Visions Collective](#)  
Transformative justice org dedicated to black liberation
- [Campaign Zero](#)  
Works on policy to end police violence in the US
- [Sylvia Rivera Law Project](#)

#### Minnesota

Minnesota Freedom Fund and MPD150 are no longer accepting donations.

Please refer to these other much-deserving and community-based organizations:

- [Reclaim The Block](#)  
Organizes Minneapolis community and city council members to move money from the police department into other areas of the city's budget that truly promote community health and safety.
- [Migizi Communications](#)  
An Indigenous youth organization whose building burned down recently.

### Other Organizations

- [Unicorn Riot](#) - the journalists bringing us the live feeds
- [North Star Health Collective](#) - street medics who are on the ground

### EDUCATIONAL ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES

- Crystal Fleming (SBU faculty), [How to Be Less Stupid About Race](#)
- Maya Brown, (SBU Journalism student), "[Growing up "divided," I always saw segregation on Long Island](#)"
- Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, "[Of Course there are Protests. The State is Failing Black People](#)"
- How to participate in Anti-Racist work: [26 Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets](#)
- Erase Racism's [infographics on school segregation on Long Island](#)
- Extensive Reading List [on Abolition, Policing, and Anti-Blackness](#)
- The Intercept article "[The George Floyd Killing in Minneapolis Exposes the Failures of Police Reform](#)"
- Prison Abolition information: [Is Prison Necessary? Ruth Wilson Gilmore Might Change Your Mind](#)
- [Prison Abolition Syllabus 2.0](#)
- [An abridged anti-racism list](#) compiled for White People
- [Preaching and Congregational Resources for Responding to Racism, White Supremacy, and Police Violence](#)