

Statement of Solidarity Against Anti-Black Racism and Police Brutality

Department of Social Science, including the Graduate Programs in Socio-legal Studies, Social and Political Thought and Development Studies

June 5, 2020

The Department of Social Science is outraged by the brazen and endemic state-sanctioned racial violence and the increased militarization of policing across Turtle Island. We condemn the brutal police murders of too many Black people across this continent and globally, which have caused immense pain and public outrage. We stand in solidarity with all those that have been protesting in response to widespread systemic anti-Black racism and structural white supremacy.

Contrary to recent statements from leading public and political figures, Canada has not been inoculated from this culture of racist police brutality and state violence, which has been deeply rooted in enduring legacies of slavery and colonialism. Abdirahman Abdi, D'Andre Campbell, Jermaine Carby, Nicholas Gibbs, Andrew Loku, and Machuar Madut are just a few of the many Black people that have been killed in encounters with the police in Canada. A [CBC News investigation](#) found that between 2000 and 2017 Black people made up 36.5 percent of fatalities involving Toronto police, despite accounting for just 8.3 percent of the city's population. Of the 461 cases involving a fatal police encounter, the CBC could only identify 18 cases where criminal charges were laid against an officer with only two convictions made. We also denounce the recent police murders of Indigenous people from coast to coast, including Jaime Adao Jr., Jason Collins, Eishia Hudson, Chantel Moore, Josephine Pelletier, among many others. We emphatically condemn this systemic anti-Black racism and colonialism that continuously violates the humanity of Black, Indigenous and other racialized people with impunity. Systemic racism is a global pandemic and we must actively condemn every attempt to deny, trivialize, minimize, and rationalize racist police and state violence.

As a Department whose work is dedicated to critically analysing social relations and structures, with several faculty and students working toward anti-racism and anti-colonialism, we demand justice for all those affected by police violence. We demand transparency and accountability in all cases of injury and death involving police. We call for an end to police repression of peaceful protesters who are taking a stand against anti-Black racism. We also recognize that we must be committed to addressing our own complicity in reproducing systemic racism. We must continue to hold ourselves and each other accountable for transforming deeply-embedded racial inequity. We call on York University students, faculty, and administrators to take meaningful, concrete action, individually and collectively, to dismantle systemic anti-black racism and colonialism both within our institution and beyond. More specifically, and echoing others committed to race equity, we call for the administration to address recommendations in the Joint Sub-Committee on Employment Equity and Inclusivity's (JSCEEI) Report. Namely, how to increase the representation of Black faculty members at York University. We must listen to Black students, faculty, staff and community members who have been raising serious concerns about anti-Black systemic racism at York University for many years.

We stand in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and racialized colleagues, staff and students during this horrific and scary time.

Resources¹

Below we are sharing some resources that may help people to better understand these issues and to contribute meaningfully to dismantling systemic white supremacy. This is just a starting point.

Places to Donate:

- [Black Health Alliance](#)
- [In Memory of D'Andre Campbell](#)
- [George Floyd Memorial Fund](#)
- [Justice for Regis – Donation](#)
- [Black Lives Matter – Toronto](#)
- [Black Lives Matter – Vancouver](#)

Books:

- [Opportunities for White People in the Fight for Racial Justice](#)
- [Policing Black Lives by Robyn Maynard](#)
- [White fragility by Robin DiAngelo](#)
- [The Skin We're In by Desmond Cole](#)
- [Black Life: Post Black Lives Matter and the Struggle for Freedom by Rinaldo Walcott and Idil Abdillahi](#)
- [Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada edited by Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson, and Syrus Marcus Ware](#)
- [Me and White Supremacy by Layla Saad](#)
- [Reading for Racial Justice: An Open Access Collection](#)

Articles and Other Readings:

- [Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor](#)
- [75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#)
- [Explaining White Privilege to a Broke White Person](#)
- [How White Parents Can Use Media to Raise Anti-Racist Kids](#)
- [In Conversation: Desmond Cole and Téa Mutonji](#)

Statements:

- Statement from Black Health Leaders: [Anti-Black Racism is a Public Health Crisis](#)
- OCASI: [End Anti-Black Racism](#)
- Jane Finch Action Against Poverty (JFAAP): [Jane Finch Community Demands Justice in the Brutal Murder of George Floyd by Police in Minneapolis](#)
- [JFAAP demands justice for Regis Korchinski-Paquet](#)
- [JFAAP statement re: the police raid in our community](#)
- [Newcomer Students' Association of Ryerson](#)
- YWCA Toronto: [Statement on Racial Justice](#)
- Rights of Non-Status Women Network: [Statement on Covid-19](#)
- [Template letter to call for action/ defund the police \(shared via The Redwood\)](#)

¹ Adapted from a list shared by LeadNow <https://www.leadnow.ca/>