

**GLS Statement of Solidarity and Action in Support of Anti-Racism & Black Lives**  
**June 15 2020**

The faculty and staff of the Global Studies Department (GLS) at Bentley University unequivocally condemn anti-Black racism in all its forms. In anguish and solidarity, we call out names of Black lives brutally ended by police violence and police-enabled violence in the US in the past weeks alone: George Floyd, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, amongst untold others. Black Lives Matter.

We denounce the police brutality that is terrorizing and traumatizing communities. Police killing of Black people is a public health crisis in itself. We are witnessing now the social pandemic of racism colluding with the biological pandemic of COVID-19, the effects of which travel along the fracture lines of disadvantage – all inextricable from the destruction of global and local environments and ecological systems.

We know that police violence is supported by a foundation of structural racism and institutionalized impunity. Decades of systematic disinvestment and environmental racism have disproportionately harmed Black populations and communities of color. Further, institutional and political systems that exclude Black people from public representation create and perpetuate racism. This includes voting suppression and other distortions of the democratic process. We condemn the violence that has been unleashed on people exercising their right to free speech and protest.

We recognize that racism is compounded by intersectional identities, that Black people who are *also* women, non-binary, queer, trans, indigenous or religious minorities confront multiple oppressions. Ableism or discrimination based on class and immigration status also amplify racism.

We are committed to elevating anti-racist and social justice work to a highest priority in our teaching, research and mentoring. We will not look away. We will probe and identify bias in our personal and professional roles. We will act in support of our students, colleagues, and friends who are wounded and burdened by systemic racism. We will advocate for greater opportunities for and representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in the student body, faculty, and staff. We pledge to hold ourselves and our institutions to account.

Our traditional mission is to create and disseminate knowledge. We believe that knowledge is power, but that knowledge is even more powerful when it leverages action. GLS provides space for thinking about and taking practical action towards transformative justice. We commit to expand those capacities and redouble those efforts. We will use our personal and institutional capacities to look inwards as well as outwards: to act swiftly and unambiguously when witnessing racism in any form; to amplify anti-racism in our teaching and curriculum; to bring the voices of the oppressed into our classes and campus activities; and to identify and work to dismantle the systems, from global to local, that enable racism and support white supremacy.

To our students, we see you, we are listening, and we support you. We are committed to providing a safe space for refuge, dialogue and action. Our doors, ears, hearts and inboxes remain open.

The Global Studies Department Faculty and Staff  
<https://www.bentley.edu/academics/departments/global-studies>