

SOC/ANT statement condemning Police Violence.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology joins our colleagues, our union, and activists across the world in condemning the state sponsored murder of George Floyd at the hands of the police. We condemn this state-sanctioned police violence which continues to terrorize-and is designed to terrorize-communities of color, especially African American communities, and we will do our part until it stops.

We grieve with the families and loved ones of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Ramarley Graham, Walter Scott, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Sean Bell, Kendra James, Anthony Baez, Amadou Diallo and many, many other black and brown people who have died as the result of a policy of racist police violence.

As New Yorkers we have witnessed these tragic murders for far too long and can recite the names of Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo, Patrick Dorismund and more recently Eric Garner, whose last words, "I can't breathe," were also uttered by a dying George Floyd.

These murders expose the deeply entrenched racism that exists in America's history, institutions, and culture. As a department we are committed to anti-racist pedagogy and believe strongly in the mission of CUNY to educate to empower the children of black, brown, immigrant and poor New Yorkers to challenge these systems and effect change.

As faculty at CUNY, we celebrate diversity and recognize the manifold benefits and richness that a diverse community offers. CUNY is an institution founded on principles of equal access to higher education; we cannot remain silent in the face of systemic and institutionalized racism.

We stand with our students, who remain heroic in their dedication to their studies despite continued challenges that threaten their physical and mental health. We are here for you.

Finally, we stand with those who are rising up and bravely demanding that racial terror must end.