

Statement from Xavier University's Social Work Department

7/15/2020

In light of the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others; including Cincinnati's own Timothy Thomas and Samuel Dubose, and many who have not been widely known, faculty in the social work department stand with protesters, other universities, the National Association of Social Workers, our university president Father Graham, and coach Travis Steele in condemning the actions of police officers, police departments, and the societal structure of white supremacy that has allowed, justified, and supported police brutality.

As faculty in the social work department we unequivocally stand with and declare that Black Lives Matter.

To our black students, alumni, and professional colleagues, we hear you, see you, and value you and recognize the impact of our country's original sin of slavery and the historic trauma that continues to be felt today. In light of this, we stand in solidarity with our black students and are committed to creating an anti-racist environment in and outside the classroom.

As faculty in the social work department, we call on the Cincinnati Police Department to continue and recommit to community problem-oriented policing (CPOP) and the Collaborative Agreement and for Xavier University to review training and policies of the Xavier University Police Department.

As faculty in the Social Work department at Xavier University, we are acutely aware of the shared University and professional values of service and social justice, commitment to diversity and difference, and obvious shortcomings of both to sufficiently redress the legacy of racism and white supremacy; thus we are committed to advocating for anti-racist actions and the dismantling of white supremacy in our department, college, University, and profession.

To all of our students, alumni, professional colleagues, and friends we invite you to join us in all of our anti-racist actions including the dismantling of white supremacy to fully realize our university motto of "All for one and one for all".