

A note on sharing or adapting this statement

Thanks for your interest in sharing our words and we are glad you find this helpful as you look to address your own communities, department, labs and workspaces. As leaders we think it's important that your community hear from you in your own words. We recognize that this is hard and that it's scary to say something imperfect. However, ultimately people want to hear *your* commitment to anti-racism. If you feel like our statement could be helpful in achieving that then you can either 1) use our statement as a general model or outline for what you could potentially say OR 2) Quote parts of the statement, attribute it to us and link to our statement. It is not enough to simply adapt our words and attribute them to yourself, as this undermines the research and emotional effort that went into crafting our response. The resources at the bottom are a list that our group compiled but they were created by other people online. Feel free to share the links and look into links that may be helpful for the communities you are addressing. We appreciate all the work each of you is doing for the other communities you are a part of. It is work that must always come authentically from the heart.

May 30, 2020

Statement on Anti-Black Violence from Davis Ecology Diversity Committee Leadership

The Diversity Committee of the UC Davis Graduate Group in Ecology (GGE) echoes the calls for justice expressed by members of the Black community after the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and [countless others](#). Such blatant disregard for Black life is proof that we as a community need to continually be intentional about uplifting Black lives and Black people through everything that we do. #BlackLivesMatter always. The grief and pain felt around these events are compounded by the impact of COVID-19 which has disproportionately affected communities of color. Now more than ever, we as ecologists need to understand that access to a safe environment (safe from police violence and profiling, pollution, climate change etc) is not available to everyone. That lack of access affects every aspect of Black and Brown peoples' lives and it doesn't stop when they step into classrooms, fieldwork, or conferences.

As educators, we also need to recognize the effect a week like this can have on our students and colleagues. Our Black students and colleagues are invaluable to our community and are undoubtedly more closely impacted by the events of this week. It is moments like this that remind us that diversity and inclusion must always be anti-racist. Educational movements for diversity and inclusion must unequivocally condemn violence against Black people and communities outside and within the academy. We are in solidarity with every Black graduate student, faculty member, undergraduate, and staff member in our GGE community. We see you, we love you, and we are angry and heartbroken with you.

We know a week like this can expose all of our insecurities and inadequacies when it comes to having difficult conversations around race and racism. Certainly, it is always better to be imperfect and humble than to not try at all. We hope the resources below help you on your way to creating an anti-racist life and practice.

Mental health resources:

- General Counseling services: <https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/counseling-services>
- UC Davis Community Advising Network: <https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/can>
- LiveHealthOnline Teletherapy: <https://livehealthonline.com/>

Organizations to donate to:

- Reclaim the Block: <https://www.reclaimtheblock.org/home>;
- Black Visions Collective: <https://secure.everyaction.com/4omQDAR0oUiUagTu0EG-Ig2>
- Family of Breonna Taylor: <https://justiceforbreonna.org/>
- Minnesota Freedom Fund: <https://minnesotafreedomfund.org/>, *This organization is receiving many donations and is asking for supporters to donate to Reclaim the Block, Black Visions Collective and [Northstar Health Collective](#) as these on the ground orgs need supplies*

Local Organizing and Efforts

- The Liberation Collective for Black Sacramento: <https://twitter.com/BlackSacramento>,
- NorCal Resist: <https://www.norcalresist.org/> (NorCal Resist is running the Sacramento bail fund which you can donate to at their website)
- Showing Up for Racial Justice, Sacramento Chapter: <https://www.facebook.com/surjsacramento/>
- Anti-Police Terror Project: <http://www.antipoliceterrorproject.org/sacramento>

Educational Resources:

- Teaching and higher education:
 - [Haynes, C., & Bazner, K. J. \(2019\). A message for faculty from the present-day movement for black lives. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*, 32\(9\), 1146-1161.](#)
 - Aggie Brickyard Spring: Vol VIII 2019 'What's On Your Mind?': Everyday Actions to Up Your Inclusivity Game, by the GGE Diversity Committee: <https://aggiebrickyard.github.io/posts/SpringVol-VIII/>
 - <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/crisis/>
- Ways white people can take action for racial justice:
 - https://medium.com/@surj_action/5-ways-white-people-can-take-action-in-respon-se-to-white-and-state-sanctioned-violence-2bb907ba5277
 - <https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-jus-tice-f2d18b0e0234>
 - <https://guidetoallyship.com/>
- Anti-racism resources for white people:

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-QgirlTwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic
- People of Color Solidarity:
 - <https://www.blackwomenradicals.com/blog-feed/black-and-asian-feminist-solidarities-a-reading-list>
 - <https://medium.com/awaken-blog/20-allyship-actions-for-asians-to-show-up-for-the-black-community-right-now-464e5689cf3e>
 - Alan Pelaez Lopez: Black and Indigenous writer whose writing can be found [here](#). They write extensively about Black and Latinx experiences as well as the experiences of Black and undocumented people.

Signed,
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Ellie Bolas
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