

**University of Massachusetts Boston - Anthropology Department**  
***Statement on Black Lives Matter, Racism, and Police Brutality***

**17 June 2020**

We, the faculty and staff of the Department of Anthropology and the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Massachusetts Boston, are horrified and outraged by the ongoing racism and police brutality against people of color in Boston, the U.S., and beyond. We want to express our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and all those speaking out against these injustices. We are a department whose faculty members are professionally, personally, and practically familiar with the histories and long-term effects of racism and state violence on communities of color worldwide. We, too, have shared in the suffering of millions who have been hurt by these injustices. Our discipline of anthropology is compelled to be of service in achieving a more just nation, not least because it underwrote racist philosophies in previous centuries. Today, we continue to offer critical and holistic analyses of the structural forces shaping everyday lives and to demand urgent change. At this juncture, we vow to do more, say more, learn more, and be more.

We express our support for students, faculty, staff, and community members of color on our campus and beyond. We stand with you in the fight to redress centuries of settler-colonialism, racism, white supremacy, and white privilege in the U.S. Not only have communities of color been disproportionately affected by the current pandemic, but they continue to be targets of systemic racism, hatred, and violence – from the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, to hate-mongering from the country’s highest office, to members of our own university community posting racist statements on social media. We stand committed to stopping these attacks on black and brown bodies and lives.

UMass Boston is a majority-minority campus, and it should be a safe and welcoming space where you, our students in particular, can thrive. As your teachers, mentors, and advocates, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure such a space in the months and years to come. We want our students and colleagues of color to know that we are here for you. We offer you support, solidarity, and assistance, and we commit to being allies who will work alongside you in the classroom, on campus, and in your and our communities to achieve a more just world. We join you and protestors worldwide in demanding the reform and demilitarization of law enforcement, addressing economic and voting inequalities, and denouncing terrorism against black and brown communities. It is not enough to request peace; we must first seek equal rights and justice. *Black Lives Matter.*