

Philosophy Department Statement of Community Support

The Department of Philosophy at UC San Diego hereby condemns the murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade, as well as the uncountable others who have been victims of violent institutional racism. Yet we do not treat these outrages as isolated incidents. We recognize that our country's fundamental institutions -- legal, cultural, and economic -- discriminate against and systematically oppress African Americans on a daily basis in incalculable ways, thereby perpetuating and exacerbating racial injustice in this country. These acts of violence are rooted in a system with a long history of white supremacy fueled by hostility, derogation, and indifference toward African Americans. We stand with protest against these injustices.

As Philosophers, and as part of the broader academic community, it is our duty not just to analyze and conceptualize structural, institutional, and individual racism, but to recognize our own responsibility for these wrongs. Academic structures have a long history of perpetuating and exacerbating the harm done to people of color in this country by effectively excluding them from participating in academic discussions and by adopting research agendas that ignore them. This problem is acute in academic philosophy. Recognizing and acting on this fact is our duty as members of the academic community. We commit to taking the concrete steps necessary to help ultimately end the shameful legacy of historical racism in this country.

We commit to: amplifying the voices of underrepresented groups -- particularly African Americans -- in our own academic community, increasing representation of underrepresented groups within our department and the profession, expanding our teaching curriculum and our research agendas, and establishing mechanisms for actively evaluating and improving our actions in these regards.