

# Department of American Studies

Letter of Support for the Department of African American Studies and Statement on Racial Violence in the U.S.

6/2/2020

Recently, our nation has been grappling with the police killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, as well as the murder of Ahmaud Arbery. These deaths, which highlight long-standing anti-Black racism and violence, have caused much pain and outrage throughout the nation and the world. Coupled with anxieties around COVID-19, which has disproportionately impacted communities of color, we are all struggling to understand what to do next. During these difficult times, we in American Studies want to reiterate our support for Black students, staff, faculty, and community members at Cal State Fullerton and beyond. We also continue to stand in solidarity with the Department of African American Studies at CSUF.

Across time, the Department of African American Studies has remained the intellectual and political center for the teaching of African American history, culture, and intellectual traditions on campus. In times like these more than ever, the work of the AAS department can help us understand, analyze, and advocate on behalf of Black people and communities in the U.S. and throughout the diaspora. To read the Department of African American Studies's "Letter of Support to Our Students," [please click here](#).

Our own work in American Studies complements the courses in African American Studies. Our teaching and research remain committed to understanding questions around politics, power, and representations of race, ethnicity, class, and gender in American culture, past and present. We will continue to work together as a department to educate our students, our communities, and ourselves on these issues. One immediate step we are taking to this end is the planning of a forum/teach-in, which will provide both an educational and dialogical space for folks to come together around issues of racism, anti-Black violence, and resistance.

Together, we hope we can continue to imagine and build a world without excesses of racism and abuses of power, and with safety for all people.