

Faculty response to racism, police brutality, and systemic oppression against Black people in the U.S.

IIT Clinical Psychology Core Faculty

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We affirm that Black Lives Matter. We actively and openly condemn the racist murders of Black individuals such as George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor, Philando Castile, Michelle Cusseaux, Eric Garner, Aura Rosser, Mike Brown, Tamir Rice, Tanisha Anderson, Freddie Grey, Trayvon Martin, Meagan Hockaday, and the countless others who were unnecessarily killed due to police brutality and/or racism. We demand justice for these murders and the passage of federal legislation requiring extensive police reforms.

We recognize that the problems underlying and leading to these tragic deaths - namely racism, police brutality against Black people, and more broadly the structural and systemic oppression of Black people in the U.S. - require a multi-tiered and ongoing response to be eradicated. Thus, as program faculty, we are developing a multi-tiered response to not only the recent murders of innocent Black people by police officers, but also the continued structural and systemic racial injustice in the U.S. This plan will include action items describing the faculty and program's immediate responses to the recent racial injustices, as well as action items for sustaining the faculty and program's commitment to achieving equity for Black people over the long term. We will distribute the plan in the coming weeks, once we are able to articulate a response that attempts to meet this moment. We also want all students to know we are here to support you, via email, phone, video, or when possible, in-person. To that end, each faculty member has listed their phone number below, and we welcome you to reach out to us anytime for additional support regarding these critical issues.

We recognize our own Whiteness and the privilege that comes with it. In doing so, we recognize that our understanding of anti-Black sentiments and actions is incomplete. We commit to supporting our Black allies by being active anti-racists. We will practice active anti-racism by educating ourselves continually, engaging in various mechanisms of activism, and further integrating active anti-racism into our lives and into the IIT Clinical Psychology curriculum.

Together, we will fight against racial injustice and dismantle the embedded structures that oppress Black people in the U.S.

In solidarity, and in support of all Black people,

The Clinical Program Core Faculty
Alissa, Greg, Joyce, Rachael, & Steve