

Dear SIUE Psychology Students,

The Psychology Department condemns the pattern of racism and oppression in our country. We stand in solidarity with the families and communities of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, and the many other victims of police brutality. We oppose police violence, particularly that which far too often targets black people.

We recognize that this may be an incredibly difficult time for you. Your well-being and safety are important to us. We hope that you take care of yourselves, access support systems, and rely on the positive coping skills you all have. We are united in our struggle to address, reject, and overcome racism in our community. Part of the healing process may be in the participation in marches and protests, expressing solidarity through connections with others, and protecting your mental health through verbalizing your feelings and practicing self-care.

What can we do now? As a department, we are committed to fighting against implicit and explicit forms of racism in the world at large and within our own university, schools, and department. We are engaging in self-reflection by building awareness of our own biases. We pledge to continually expand and challenge our own cultural comfort zones. We commit to listen to your voices and ensure that you are heard and respected. We are here to support and learn from you and we want to engage in ongoing dialogue.

We invite you to participate in our commitment to promote equity and inclusion in our department. In the coming days, you will receive an e-mail from the department to your SIUE e-mail address with a link to allow you to share your feelings and ideas for change with us.

In conclusion, we are committed to demonstrating that Black Lives Matter by taking actions that dismantle racism, bigotry, discrimination, violence, and intimidation.

With support and solidarity,

The SIUE Psychology Department