

Statement in support of protests against racism and police brutality

We, the undersigned faculty from the Romance Languages department, at Binghamton University, want to join our voices to the voices of our colleagues across the nation and the world to express our strong support for those who are protesting in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd while in police custody.

We grieve alongside the Black community, and are outraged by systemic racism within the criminal justice system and in our society. We stand with those seeking justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the many others victimized by systemic racism. We categorically oppose any militarized response to protests. We believe it is imperative to rethink policing practices and the larger criminal justice system.

We write, also, in a climate of severe domestic neglect. As we face a pandemic that has disproportionately affected Black, Brown, Indigenous, Afro-Latinx and Latinx communities, the unequal social system of which we are part becomes even more evident. We recognize that this insidiously unjust system was founded in White colonial occupation and that it is reproduced by ongoing state-sanctioned violence at the hands of the police, ICE, and other law enforcement agencies.

As scholars of languages and cultures, we understand that literature and other forms of expression can maintain the status quo of inequality and violence or, conversely, imagine powerful new possibilities for inclusion, healing, and building a just future for us all. Therefore, we stand in solidarity with the Black community and with all who courageously work to build peace through justice.

Below are some suggested strategies and resources that we encourage you to explore:

Strategy: Donate

Resources: If you are able to donate to support bail for protesters who have been jailed, this is a [list of local bail funds](#). Among other organizations, [Black Lives Matter](#) accepts donations, as does [BYP-100](#) and the [Black Alliance for Just Immigration](#).

Strategy: Make an impact. Support businesses owned by people of color.

Resources: See this [Directory of title 8 businesses](#). For more information about Black-owned business in the Binghamton area, refer to the Facebook group [Support Black Businesses 607](#) and to this article "[Eat out at these four Black- and minority-owned restaurants](#)"

Strategy: Donate to help rebuild the Rec Park playground, an important communal and recreational space for the Black and Brown communities in the Binghamton area.

Resource: https://www.gofundme.com/f/rebuilding-rec-park-in-binghamton?utm_medium=email&utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_email%2B5102-48hr-donor-share

Strategy: Support changes to policing in the U.S. See the movement "8 Can't Wait," which advocates for changing eight crucial policies that increase deaths and violence.

Resource: <https://8cantwait.org>

Strategy: Contact government officials who represent you. Voice your support, and opposition, or help reform policies—at the various levels: county, municipal, state, or federal—to make an impact.

Resource: See who your elected officials are

Strategy: VOTE! Make your voice count!

Resource: Need to register to vote or learn about how to run?

(Many thanks to the Haitian Studies Association for compiling this list of resources)

In solidarity,

Irem Ayan, French

Douglas Babcock, Spanish

Yulia Bosworth, French

Maria Bracaglia-Kapral, Spanish

Sandra Casanova, Spanish

Elizabeth Clarke, French

Sean Cook, Spanish

Maria Cook, Italian

Robyn Cope, French

Sonnie Day, Administrative Assistant

Salvador Fajardo, Spanish

Maria Mercedes Fernandez-Asenjo, Spanish

Darin Goldenberg, Administrative Support

Glenmarie Green Gonzalez, Spanish

Tomas Guerrero Diaz, Spanish

Brendan Hennessey, Italian

Julie Johnson, French

Bryan Kirschen, Spanish

Alexandra Lee, Italian

Chesla Lenkaitis, Spanish, Language Coordinator

Ana Ros Matturro, Spanish, Department Chair.

Caroline Mauduy, French

Giovanna Montenegro, Comparative Literature and Spanish

Cristina Nava-Wilson, Spanish

Nahed Nouredine, French & Spanish

Jeanette Patterson, French

Gerardo Pignatiello, Spanish

Dora Polachek, French

Rachel Samiani, Italian

Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Spanish

Dana Stewart, Italian, Co-Chair, Graduate Director

Monica Straniero, Italian

Carmen Swoffer, French

Cynthia Totolis, Spanish