



New Mexico State University
Department of Sociology

Black Lives Matter.

We, the full-time faculty of the Department of Sociology at New Mexico State University, condemn racism and racial violence in all its forms. We condemn hate. We condemn anti-Blackness. We stand with our Black students, colleagues, and community members and denounce the racist killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and all other people of color whose lives and opportunities were senselessly cut short with lethal, callous prejudice. We also stand with these same students, colleagues, and community members to condemn the institutionalized structures and cultural beliefs that (re)produce racialized violence and inequalities in all its forms in our society.

We stand for an end to violence. We stand for equity. We stand for justice. We stand with those who protest for a more just and equitable future for all of our communities of color.

We commit to serving our students—past, present, and future—by equipping them with the tools and support they need to understand and fight institutional and interpersonal inequities now and throughout their lives. We commit to taking further actions to contribute to meaningful change. As [Dr. Patrick Turner stated](#), we must move from “thin words to thick action.” We are motivated by this call for thick action and support the following (non-exhaustive) measures at the department, university, and city/state-wide levels.

As a majority-white department, we recognize that our responsibility is to listen to Black, Brown, and Indigenous voices, and to use our privileged position as faculty at a higher education institution in the U.S. Borderlands to give these voices a platform to amplify the reach of their work. As such, we are committed to developing a new “Community Sociology” colloquium series that will be dedicated to featuring NMSU, Las Cruces, Doña Ana County, and El Paso professionals who work on issues of racial and social justice. The department also commits to strengthening its dedication to increase diversity in our faculty and student bodies, to continue to highlight race, criminality, and inequality issues in our curriculum, and to use our social media platform to engage our community with information about racial inequalities in all forms.

At the university level, we join the call by other NMSU groups to create and support an Africana Studies program/major and hire a critical mass of Black Studies scholars. We also recognize that it is imperative for our university—a land-grant, Hispanic-serving institution that sits on Indigenous territory—to create and support Latinx and Native/Indigenous Studies programs/majors and recruit scholars to support those efforts. Finally, we call on NMSU to redouble their efforts to hire, retain, and promote full-time Black, Brown, and Indigenous faculty.

Beyond the university, we urge our state and city leaders to introduce and support legislation to address the racism and discrimination that currently pervades the criminal justice system and so many other sectors of our society. We exhort our leaders to listen to Black, Brown, and Indigenous voices in our communities in this process because their experiences will be crucial in spearheading policies to address these issues. As an initial step towards those efforts, we pledge our support and expertise for Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s Advisory Council for Racial Justice.

We are at an historic impasse in the long, slow struggle for equal civil rights in our country. We must take deliberate action to make meaningful changes now. We look forward to working together as a department, university, and city/state to bring about the positive changes that our historical circumstances demand.