

From the Faculty Members of the Executive Committee of the Anthropology Program:

GC ANTHROPOLOGY STATEMENT AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE AND ANTI-BLACK RACISM

The PhD Program in Anthropology at the Graduate Center, CUNY, raises our professional voice to assert that Black Lives Matter. We mourn the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and the countless other Black lives lost to racialized state violence. We further condemn the structural racism that has contributed to the dehumanization of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, resulting in systematic injustice and their disproportionate mortality from diseases including COVID-19.

We acknowledge the fraught legacy that anthropology has with racism, being born of colonial and orientalist efforts to categorize “the other” and justify white Euroamerican violence over other people. We further acknowledge the ways the discipline remains implicated in the project of white supremacy today.

We at CUNY pledge to continue the struggle to emancipate anthropology from its racist past and present, to support the dismantling of oppressive, colonial, and imperial system of power and knowledge, and to expand our efforts to decolonize anthropology here in our own program and in the discipline at large.

Anthropology also offers us multiple examples of the transformative power of protest, and powerful visions of a more just and egalitarian future.