

Black Lives Matter!

We express our respect and support for the Black community during these most challenging times. We offer our solidarity to our campus African American community whom we value and for whose leadership, courage, and friendship we are grateful.

The recent murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery are painful and horrifying. They constitute only the latest acts of violence from law enforcement, which must be seriously rethought beyond the racist legacy of racial profiling and the mythology projected onto people of color that we are dangerous, rather than a fundamental part of the heart, conscience, and democratic spirit of our country.

We denounce racist and white supremacist terrorist violence against the African American community. We denounce the systemic and deeply flawed, pseudoscientific racist thought that has rationalized state violence, which includes physical, social, economic, and psychological abuse, exploitation, and dehumanization of Black and Brown bodies. We commend the Chancellor and the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion in denouncing the racist violence against the Black community, and we encourage UC Berkeley to take national leadership in imagining, creating, upholding, and protecting measures aimed at a profound transformation in campus culture that will truly impact federal, state and global policy reforms.

Racism is pernicious, entrenched, systemic, and deeply rooted in the foundation of our country and in our psyches through the educational system and every branch of culture throughout society. As an institution of higher learning, and one that is respected throughout the world for its visionary and progressive politics, we feel our campus must take leadership in the critique, rejection, and deep undoing of racism, beginning with concrete steps such as prioritizing all research, programming, departments, research centers, hiring of faculty and staff, and student admissions that support the expanded presence and well-being of African American and other people of color on campus. We cannot envision a “Lighting the Way to the Public University of the Future,” “The Future of Democracy,” or “Equality, Equity, and Opportunity,” without a courageous reckoning with the falsely naturalized, “invisible,” unacknowledged Euroamerican or “white” racialized privilege and the naturalized bias and devalorization, criminalization, and projection of intellectual and cultural so-called “racial” deficit onto people of color, African Americans foremost among these.

We acknowledge that as Chicanxs and Latinxs, we experience racism but that we too perpetuate it through internalized anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity which has been imposed, disseminated, and internalized in our communities since the time of colonization in Latin America, and which as members of the campus community, we are committed to deeply examining and undoing, personally, and in our social relations through teaching, research, activism, and communication with others. In doing so, we also acknowledge and honor the Indigenous and African ancestry of the Latinx community.

We respect, appreciate, and stand in alliance with the Black community in a commitment to support the important work of racial justice and equity on this campus and beyond. Together, we can dismantle racial oppression and hold ourselves accountable for the promise of “liberty and justice for all.”

Black lives matter!

Sincerely,
Chicanx Latinx Standing Committee Members

Laura E. Pérez, Professor & Chair, Latinx Research Center; Chicano/Latino Studies, Department of Ethnic Studies, Co-chair
Cruz Grimaldo, Assistant Vice Chancellor & Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Co-chair
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Gabriel Gonzalez, CIO and Assistant Dean, Instructional and Information Technology & Services, Berkeley Law
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Roberto Horowitz, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Professor of Mechanical Engineering
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