



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

June 15, 2020

The faculty and staff of the Department of Anthropology condemn the murder of, and violence towards, Black Americans at the hands of police. These tragedies expose the long-term systemic violence perpetrated against Black, Indigenous, and Peoples of Color in the United States. We stand in solidarity with our Black students, the OU Community, and all affected persons now and in the future. We support all those who have stood or marched in protest. We affirm that Black Lives Matter. We acknowledge that there is much work to be done—in the department, in the classroom, and in our communities—to dismantle the systems that preclude equality.

Speaking as chair of the department, I have been silent for too long as someone who has benefited from the system. I am grateful for the candid conversations I have had with faculty, staff, and students about what the department can do to bring about real change. I acknowledge the invisible labor. I recognize that as a department our membership is predominantly white. I am inspired by the many other Anthropology departments and academic societies that are voicing not only solidarity but instituting strategies for change. Moving forward, as first steps, I make the following commitments to help dismantle systemic racism through department action:

Creating Change: I commit to working with the department Diversity Committee and the faculty at large to identify problems and work towards institutional change that will promote inclusivity and diversity.

Communicating: I commit to setting aside time for the department to listen, learn, and reflect on systemic racism and violence.

Teaching: I commit to decolonizing my syllabi by including the creative works of more Black, Indigenous, and People of Color scholars, and helping produce resources for all faculty to do so.

Amplifying: I commit to using my privileged voice, and the department's platform, to support and amplify voices suppressed by the system in whatever way I can.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asa Randall'.

Asa Randall, Chair