

**Joint Statement on Racial Inequality by the Programs of
CRIMINAL JUSTICE and MASTERS OF ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Like so many others across the nation and those in our own Stockton community, the faculty of the Criminal Justice and Master's of Criminal Justice Programs are reeling with anger and loss at the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and Rayshard Brooks, among so many others.

Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other Persons of Color have endured a long history of systemic racism at every stage of the criminal justice process. We add our voices to all those who have publicly opposed this injustice, and express solidarity in the call across the nation for lasting, reformative and transformational change within the Criminal Justice System. In particular, we stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and recognize the irrefutable value it has brought to these long-standing and long-overlooked issues of racial injustice.

As Criminologists, we remain committed to understanding the long history of the complex relationships between the Criminal Justice System and those who have been historically marginalized by it. In the classroom and through our research, we continue to uncover the systematic racial bias in the Criminal Justice System, and work to provide everyone, including our students, the support they need to defend their Constitutional and human rights.

We advocate for the use of evidence-based research¹ in driving policy to address practices that created and continue to reinforce racism and discrimination throughout our criminal justice institutions, including all levels of law enforcement and policing, the legal system and court proceedings, and all components of the correctional system. These practices have disproportionately impacted communities of color, and, as such, we will do our part in reexamining ways to create greater equity in our society.

Through these actions, we reaffirm our commitment as a program to educate ourselves, our students, and our communities on these critical issues. In doing so, we hope to raise awareness among various stakeholders and, in turn, contribute to a change that promotes elimination of racial biases and discrimination in our system.

The [American Society of Criminology](#) and the [Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences](#) have issued statements on the injustices against communities of color. We would like to support these statements by linking to them directly.

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¹ Evidence based research to advance policy may include, but is not limited to, the 2015 Task Report on 21st Century Policing (https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf)