



To the Silberman School of Social Work Community,

All of us have been saddened but not surprised by the recent grand jury decisions, first in Ferguson Missouri, and today in New York City. The issues of social injustice and racism are persistent, pervasive, and permeate our major societal institutions, including education, health care, economic development, and of course, the criminal justice system. The enduring relationship between inequality, race, and poverty is the reason the School mounted our lecture series in Inequality. We held the inaugural lecture this past November.

Many of us have been taking individual action, and the issues have certainly been carefully discussed in our classrooms and field placements. Now in direct response to the grand jury decisions we have organized a faculty committee to plan our School's work. The committee is chaired by Professor Willie Tolliver and includes several faculty members, as well as members of our Field and Student Services staff. I am sure they will be reaching out for student and alumni participation as well.

The committee's work will involve at least three activities: crafting a School response for faculty review, planning a school wide "Teach In" to take place early in the spring semester, and scheduling faculty development so we can add appropriate material throughout our curriculum. Please follow the School website and our Facebook page for updates on these plans.

Jacqueline Mondros,

Dean and Professor