



## **University at Albany, School of Social Welfare Anti-Racism Commitment Statement**

### **“Injustice Anywhere Is A Threat to Justice Everywhere”**

These words were true in the 60’s when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke during the Civil Rights era, and these words are relevant today. In 2014, black males are killed by police 21 times more than white males. We decry these practices.

**For 50 years, the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany’s mission has included the pursuit of social and economic justice for people who are vulnerable, marginalized, or oppressed. Yet, as a nation we are collectively failing in this goal.**

The University at Albany, School of Social Welfare, therefore, deplores the actions of racial profiling along with police brutality that have killed too many unarmed black males: Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Sean Bell, Oscar Grant, Tamir Rice, etc. The vast list of slain black males is a symptom of the systemic, structural and implicit culture of racism in our country.

The devastating impact of racism on communities of color can be seen in a variety of domains, such as the school to prison pipeline, disparities in health, aging, mental health, juvenile justice, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, employment, child welfare, school discipline, and the criminal justice system.

The School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany is committed to:

- Partner with communities of color and other oppressed groups to explore viable solutions to address racism and barriers to equity.
- Continue to engage in critical dialogue through “The Gathering” meetings about racism.
- Participate in peaceful demonstrations that highlight institutional, structural, and oppressive actions.
- Reach out to community leaders in an effort to strategize and combat all forms of racism.
- Develop and support policies that dismantle racist practices.
- Acknowledge the effects of white privilege.
- Support our Albany, NY, City Mayor in her Race Equity initiative.

Sincerely,

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