

GSSW Solidarity Statement for Racial Justice

The GSSW community stands in solidarity with individuals, families and communities who are fighting against historically situated and ongoing racism and other intersecting forms of oppression. As a school that is dedicated to training future social workers that embody the values and ethics of social justice, we commit to understanding our place in the larger context of institutional racism and to bending the arc of history toward a more just world. Recent and historical events shaping the environment of rage, fear and distrust of institutions across our nation reflect a deep wound anchored in a history that continues to repeat itself. Racial profiling, unnecessary use of lethal force, denial of basic human rights and civil liberties such as access to housing, employment, health care and due process, as well as exploitation of poverty via modern day “debtors prisons,” confront people of color on a daily basis. We aim to explicitly confront racism and related systemic oppression. In this spirit, we pledge to:

1. Engage each other and our communities in undoing institutional and systemic racism. We will have direct conversations that name these historical and ongoing experiences and actively seek to identify responsive social work practices.
2. Collaborate with the communities most affected by these injustices and participate, as directed by community, in efforts to dismantle systemic oppression. We will:
 - build mutually beneficial non-exploitative relationships in our research and practice, and
 - participate in non-violent actions that spur critical dialogue and embody anti-racist social work practice.

As an institution committed to the public good, we dedicate ourselves to developing a culture of critical consciousness that promotes and supports socially just, anti-racism programs and policies through our educational and scholarship efforts. We will continually address the intersectional nature of power, privilege and oppression in our interactions with clients, students, communities and each other. This statement aligns with the GSSW commitment and pledge for diversity: <http://www.du.edu/socialwork/diversitypledge.html>