



Dear MAFP Community,

We know you are being inundated with emails right now, and many of you will have seen the “We Stand Together: A Statement by Senior Leadership at the University of Denver” (which can be found [here](#)), as well as the recent statement by the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS; APA Division 41), spearheaded and co-authored by MAFP faculty member Dr. Apryl Alexander (the full text of the AP-LS statement is included at the end of this email). We fully support and endorse this statement, and thank those who were instrumental in its creation, including Dr. Alexander.

We will therefore keep this message brief:

Black Lives Matter.

The lives, safety, and mental and physical wellbeing of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) matter, and we share responsibility for supporting BIPOC members of the community, including those we serve professionally, as well as our own BIPOC colleagues. As a graduate program focused on the intersection of criminal justice and psychology, we recognize the role these institutions have played in creating and maintaining systems of oppression and violence directed against BIPOC individuals. We are also uniquely positioned to work toward systemic change. Individually and collectively, we have the obligation to engage in the anti-racist, anti-violent, BIPOC-affirming work that can and must change lives and institutions.

In all of this work, we must center BIPOC voices. At the same time, those of us who are White should be mindful of adding to the already-heavy workload, including the emotional workload, being carried by BIPOC individuals at this time. For those looking for additional resources, Drs. Alexander and Lavita Nadkarni have prepared the following lists, which are by no means exhaustive.

Online resources:

- [Resources to Address Racism and Racial Violence \(National Council on Family Relations\)](#)
- [For Our White Friends Desiring To Be Allies](#)
- [“Ally” is a verb: White Privilege & Fragility Resource List](#)
- [75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice](#)
- [Beyond the Hashtag: How to Take Anti-Racist Action in Your Life](#)
- [Anti-racism resources \(Google doc\)](#)
- [26 Ways to Be in the Struggle Beyond the Streets](#)
- [5 Things White People Can Do Right Now to Combat White and State-Sanctioned Violence](#)
- [After Arbery shooting, black parents are rethinking ‘the talk’ with sons to explain white vigilantes](#)
- [Affirming Black Lives Without Inducing Trauma](#)
- [Why Teaching Black Lives Matter Matters Part I](#)
- [Your Black Colleagues May Look Like They’re Okay--Chances Are They’re Not](#)

Books (Note: If you are considering purchasing books or other materials, please consider supporting local Black-owned bookstores; here is one such [list](#), and there are many others):

- [How to Be an Antiracist](#)
- [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard to Talk to White People About Racism](#)
- [The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness](#) (see also this article, [Ten Years After "The New Jim Crow"](#))

Please reach out if I, we as a faculty, the Graduate School of Professional Psychology, or DU as a whole can be supportive to you at this time in any way. And, please also reach out if you have resources or ideas around these critical issues.

Lynett and the faculty of the DU Master's in Psychology Program

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*For mental health and wellness resources around COVID-19 [click here](#).*

*If you are interested in contributing to our Student Assistance Fund, please visit [give.du.edu](http://give.du.edu).*



***Note that the following statement was developed at the urging of, and co-authored by, Dr. Apryl Alexander and her colleagues in AP-LS. We would like to acknowledge and thank them for their leadership in the field in this matter.***

### Statement of the American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS)

The mission of the American Psychology-Law Society is to enhance well-being, justice, and human rights through the science and practice of psychology in legal contexts. We stand strongly against racism, prejudice, and hate in all its forms. The tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, and countless other Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are unacceptable. These instances of horrific violence once again illustrate the profound systemic inequities and injustices toward marginalized and oppressed communities in the United States and around the world broadly and more specifically in our criminal justice, civil justice, legal, and carceral systems.

We recognize that racism does not occur in isolation, and its effects are heightened for people who also experience discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class, religion, immigration status, and other identities. Likewise, the negative effects of racism multiply across contexts. Recently, racial/ethnic disparities related to COVID-19, health care access, and the spread of COVID-19 in criminal and juvenile justice systems have magnified these profound inequities and injustices.

We believe that, through research, education, and training, better policies and practices can be developed to make the criminal justice, civil justice, legal, and carceral systems more equitable, just, and responsive to the needs of the communities in which they work.

As AP-LS members, we must engage in dialogue and action to create change within our society, our educational and legal institutions, and in our communities. We must engage in stronger efforts that support equity, inclusion, and just outcomes through our research, practice, teaching, and other professional activities. As a society, we seek to join other organizations to promote justice, put a spotlight on injustice, and condemn racism in all its forms. We stand together with Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color and other oppressed groups and recommit to working together to ensure justice for all.