

Subject: [col-sw-emp-staff-appt] A Call to Action
Date: Friday, May 29, 2020 at 10:55:25 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Amanda Moore McBride
To: Christine Mafana
Attachments: image005.png@01D635A5.5F011230, image007.png@01D635A5.5F011230, image009.png@01D635A5.5F011230, image011.png@01D635A5.5F011230

Dear GSSW community,

If words fail you right now, action should not.

Our community is feeling deep sadness, frustration, and rage. The hate and racism in the United States is blatant — the disproportionate illness and death in black and brown communities due to COVID-19, the weaponization of whiteness against Christian Cooper in Central Park, and the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed, and Tony McDade.

To be a member of a school of social work — to be a social worker — means that you act against injustice. It is not enough to believe in the inherent dignity and worth of all people; you must act on that belief by being explicitly anti-racist.

I particularly appeal to white members of our community. The group Showing Up for Racial Justice is circulating an [article](#) this week that is a call to action against state-sanctioned violence toward people of color, which I add includes the children and families still in detention centers nationwide. I encourage you to read it.

Members of DU administration were contacted yesterday by Alma Engebretson, an upcoming 2020 DU graduate with a Bachelor of Music in cello performance. Alma is a life-long resident of Minneapolis, where they live now due to remote learning and whose home is blocks away from where George Floyd was murdered. In solidarity with Alma's request for direct action, I include some suggested strategies that Alma hopes members of the DU community will consider. I know that some of you are also attending the rallies in downtown Denver. Please be safe and look out for one another.

GSSW's Inclusive Excellence Committee and Culture and Climate Advisory Group are offering optional space for the GSSW community to process these events with experienced facilitators on Friday, June 5 (registration information below). These virtual caucuses will be focused on healing, support, learning, and action. All are welcome to join a session.

It is hard to fathom the despair and death among us at this moment, but we must remain steadfast in our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and work to heal individual lives and transform racist ideologies and systems.

Onward,
Amanda

Action Strategies to Consider

- Text "FLOYD" to 55156, click the link they send, and sign the petition calling for the officers responsible for Floyd's death to be indicted for murder.
- Donate to the [Black Lives Matter](#) organization.
- Contact the Minneapolis district attorney at 612-348-5550.
- Contact Mayor Jacob Frey's office at 612-673-2100 and say, "I want justice for the murder of George Floyd. I demand the prosecution of the officers involved. This is a racist hate crime and an abuse of power."
- Donate to the [Minnesota Freedom Fund](#) to provide bail money for protesters who are arrested.
- Donate to the [George Floyd Memorial Fund](#).

GSSW Caucuses

We are offering these sessions as identity-based caucuses. Caucusing by identity minimizes the burden of positioning marginalized individuals to always be the “teachers” of individuals from privileged identities; caucusing also allows those of privileged identities to process how they perpetuate and benefit from the structural and interpersonal violence based on that identity without burdening those of marginalized identities.

Please [register](#) in order to attend. RSVPs protect these sessions from Zoom bombing, and will not be used in any other way than to send you the protected invitations. Registration is open until 10 a.m. on Friday, June 5.

Facilitating GSSW faculty members will send you the Zoom link. Please check your email inbox before the session. If you have any questions about caucusing or participating, please email the faculty listed below.

MSW Students

MSW Students of Color Caucus
Facilitated by Professors Amy He and Brian Gonzales
Friday, June 5, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

White MSW Students Caucus
Facilitated by Professors Heather Arnold-Renicker and Eugene Walls
Friday, June 5, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Staff, Faculty, and PhD Students

Staff, faculty, and PhD Students of Color Caucus
Facilitated by Professors Amy He and Brian Gonzales
Friday, June 5, 2 – 3 p.m.

White Staff, Faculty, and PhD Students Caucus
Facilitated by Professors Heather Arnold-Renicker and Eugene Walls
Friday, June 5, 2 – 3 p.m.

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