



### **HGSA Statement on the Current Protests**

**In light of recent events, the History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) commits its support to the Black Lives Matter Movement. The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Nina Pop, Ahmaud Arbery, and many other black people by police and white vigilantes in the United States are intolerable hate crimes that the HGSA refuses to condone or excuse.**

**As practitioners of history, we understand that these present-day acts of white supremacy are continuations of centuries of violence towards black, brown, and indigenous people. We know that the institution of policing was established to regulate black and brown bodies; the problem is not “one bad apple,” but is rather a historical, systemic issue. We demand the arrest of all officers and individuals who perpetuate racial violence, and we agitate for the redistribution of billions of dollars from police department budgets to local communities. Finally, we call on SUNY to disband the New York State University Police and redistribute its resources. University police departments were only established in the 1960s to silence student unrest, and our voices will no longer be quieted.**

**The HGSA supports everyone who has taken a stand at the front lines of the protests. If you are interested in getting involved in protests in Brooklyn or elsewhere in New York, reach out to Jocelyn Zimmerman for contact information. If you are unable to join in the protests but want to aid those who are involved, please consider donating to some of the resources listed below to provide protesters with water, food, transportation, and masks (NOTE: this list is not exhaustive; if you know of any other resources for protesters, please email [stonybrookhgsa@gmail.com](mailto:stonybrookhgsa@gmail.com)):**

- *The Riot Safety Fund* (PayPal: [bit.ly/RiotSafetyFund](https://bit.ly/RiotSafetyFund)): organized by a WGSS graduate student at Stony Brook
- *The Black Excellence Collective* (PayPal.me/BXC20): provides safe transport for black LGBT+ protestors
- *Black Visions Collective* ([blackvisionsmn.org](https://blackvisionsmn.org))
- *Communities United Against Police Brutality* ([cuapb.org](https://cuapb.org))
- *Emergency Release Fund* ([bit.ly/DonateERF](https://bit.ly/DonateERF))
- *Black and Pink National Bail Fund* ([secure.actblue.com/donate/black---pink-1](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/black---pink-1)): a bail fund for black LGBT+ protestors

For more bail funds, visit: [www.autostraddle.com/43-bail-funds-you-can-absolutely-support-right-now/](https://www.autostraddle.com/43-bail-funds-you-can-absolutely-support-right-now/)

If you donate via PayPal, Venmo or Cash App, do not include the words “BLM” or “protest” in your description; those companies have been interrupting such contributions.

**The HGSA acknowledges that white supremacy does not just manifest in occasional outbursts of violence, but in systemic ways of thinking and acting—microaggressions and thoughts. As graduate students, we are committed to learning, to admitting to our own faults, and to growing and challenging ourselves; we ask that faculty say and do the same. History graduate students**



**must work to elevate more people of color and women to leadership positions within the HGSA. Likewise, History faculty must endeavor to add more women and people of color to their ranks and their curricula, and to make sure that “diversity work” is not delegated exclusively to female faculty and students of color. To start to develop a praxis of inclusion, the HGSA strongly encourages all of the graduate students, staff, and faculty of the Department of History to read literature pertaining to white supremacy, including the following (NOTE: this list is not exhaustive; if you would like to add a reading, please email [stonybrookhgsa@gmail.com](mailto:stonybrookhgsa@gmail.com)):**

- Layla F. Saad, *Me and White Supremacy*
- Reni Eddo-Lodge, *Why I’m No Longer Talking to White People About Race*
- Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*
- Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
- Angela Y. Davis, *Freedom is a Constant Struggle*
- Robin DiAngelo, *White Fragility*
- Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Anti-Racist*
- Wesley Lowery, *They Can’t Kill Us All*
- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

For a more extensive list, see: <https://www.aaihs.org/resources/charlestonsyllabus/>

If you need to buy books, please purchase them from black owned bookstores. In NYC: Word Up (Manhattan), The Lit Bar (Manhattan), Sister’s Uptown Bookstore (Manhattan), Revolution Books (Manhattan), and Café Con Libros (Brooklyn), all of which are currently shipping books.

**The HGSA is committed to opposing racism. Borrowing from the *Combahee River Collective Statement*, “we know that we have a very definite revolutionary task to perform and we are ready for the lifetime of work and struggle before us.”**

**In Solidarity,**

Jocelyn Zimmerman  
Ken Wohl  
Kevin Marshall  
D. David O’Donoghue  
José Manuel Baeza-Zúñiga  
Spencer Austin  
Lorna Ebner  
Will Mack  
Caroline Propersi-Grossman  
Grace Hall  
Lance Boos  
Deborah Boudreau

Karl Nycklemoe  
Leah Savage  
Jared Fitzsimons  
Jennifer Jordan  
Ximena Lopez Carrillo  
Aishani Gupta  
Brooke Franks  
Cody Rossler  
Nicholas Piraino  
Mia Brett  
Nicolas Barrientos  
Maria-Clara Torres

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