

## Statement from Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies on anti-Black violence:

A climate of anti-Black racism in America emboldens and enables white supremacist police and vigilantes to murder black people. Today, we remember and mourn Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, Dave McAtee, and many, many others. We stand in solidarity with protesters demanding an end to police brutality, systemic racism and white supremacy, and we vehemently oppose the state violence directed against them. We contest the racist language used by the media to describe these uprisings. In the context of a pandemic that is disproportionately impacting Black, Latinx and indigenous communities, and in the face of aggressive militarized policing, protesters are putting their lives on the line to demand racial justice. We affirm their calls to defund the police and to redirect resources toward life-affirming infrastructure for communities of color and towards practices of restorative justice. As the core members of an academic program devoted to feminist, gender and sexuality studies, we are committed to intersectional teaching and scholarship that centrally addresses systemic and structural racism. We therefore reject carceral feminism that confuses criminal justice with social justice, and instead affirm decarceration and prison abolition as feminist goals. We redouble our commitment to contest white supremacy, conscious and unconscious, to support Black colleagues, students and staff who experience racism every day, and to create spaces in our classrooms and on our campus for nurturing solidarity, praxis, and racial justice.

Lisa Cohen  
Christina Crosby  
Kerwin Kaye  
Natasha Korda  
Hari Krishnan  
Patricia Rodriguez Mosquera  
Victoria Pitts-Taylor  
Jennifer Tucker  
Heather Vermeulen

core faculty, Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Wesleyan University