

Black Lives Matter

Statement of Solidarity with Black Lives Matter Movement

Members of the Department of Social Work at Appalachian State University raise our voices in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement and acknowledge the struggles and the pain Black people have suffered for centuries in their quest for equality and justice. We advocate for equitable and humane treatment for Black lives. As a department, we are committed to growth and feedback that advances our contributions as social workers and educators to better stand in solidarity with Black liberation movements.

The BLM movement was established in 2013 on the fundamental belief that people of color are a vital part of the country's population and deserve fair and equal treatment. BLM became nationally known through non-violent demonstrations advocating for justice for people of color who have been murdered by excessive force of law enforcement.

- As a community of social workers, we partner as allies to offer a voice for those who are not heard.
- Our department is united in the movement for Black lives.
- This is not a political statement, but rather a statement of humanity, to create and uphold equity and equality for people of color.

As a Department of Social Work we are dedicated to promoting social, economic and environmental justice, human rights, and a trauma-informed perspective. We:

- Acknowledge that silence and inaction contribute to the ongoing individual and institutional racism and other structural inequalities and commit to not remain silent in the face of racism and inequality.
- Respect intersectionalities within the Black community and uplift the voices of Black women, LGBTQ+ folks, individuals with diverse abilities, and those who hold other marginalized identities.
- Vocally support Black at AppState and Social Work Students at AppState participating in direct social and political actions that promote human rights and racial and economic justice.
- Actively work to be agents of change for racial injustice and to break down systems of oppression, through our research, teaching, and service.

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