



Stony Brook
School of Social Welfare

Office of the Dean
Health Sciences Tower, L2, 092
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8231
TEL. 631.444.2139
FAX 631.444.7565

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Dear SSW Community,

Yesterday's guilty verdict in the trial of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin was an important moment in this long year of reckoning with systemic and structural racism that is entrenched in every aspect of American life. To be sure- it is only a moment. Yet it is a *moment* for equity in race relations and one *step* in an arduous journey toward justice for *all*.

As social workers and agents of change we must continue the vital work informed by sharp attention to seizing opportunities that uphold the ideals of social justice and a better future for those who have been marginalized and disenfranchised throughout our country's history. To quote Dr. King, we believe in the fierce urgency of *now*.

As a School we assert our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. Black lives matter *for the same reason* that *everyone's* life matters. We affirm that *Black* lives matter precisely because institutions, laws, practices, and behaviors have so long denied Black people justice and ignored their pain. We affirm our solidarity with this movement and all other struggles to end the dehumanization of people of color and to promote equitable and humane treatment for all people.

With hope,

Jacqueline B. Mondros
Dean & Assistant Vice President for Social Determinants of Health