



Statement on Interlocking Oppression and a Call for Solidarity

This is a statement and a call of solidarity. We know threats and violent attacks against Black, Brown, and Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) people are too frequent. Trans and gender diverse people are also targeted at extremely high rates. Black and brown trans people are targeted at even higher rates. Some attacks receive more attention in the press than others, yet all are real and have a devastating impact on individuals directly harmed, those close to them, people who can see themselves reflected in the identities or experiences of people being attacked, and our communities. Reports about the violence, including current coverage of Derek Chauvin's trial for the murder of George Floyd and now the killing of Daunte Wright are also traumatic and may result in a sense of fear and/or helplessness.

If you are experiencing trauma related to incidents directly impacting you or from news of incidents we wanted you to know you are not alone. We are one resource on campus who can listen to you and advocate with you. Other resources on campus are the LGBTQA+ Resource Center, Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Gender and Sexuality, OASIS, Chancellor's Commission on the Status of People of Color, Counseling and Psychological Services for students (CAPS), and Employee Assistance Program for employees (EAP). Student organizations and other affinity groups formed organically or through Institute for Ethnic Studies or Women and Gender Studies classes also are a great way to make connections and find solidarity. Moreover, beginning this fall, any student will be able to minor in Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion, connecting with peers and professors who are committed to social justice.

Regarding threats to trans, APIDA, and Black and Brown and other minoritized students, colleagues, friends, and neighbors, we also acknowledge that these are bound together in white supremacy and colonization. Although the particular struggles faced by people in these groups are often distinct, the source has common roots. Therefore, we call for joining in solidarity to protect and support each other and advocate for justice against these entrenched roots of white supremacy and colonization. We also recognize that each individual being targeted by oppression will have their own needs and react differently; some will need to focus on self-care and some will feel empowered immediately to join with others in community and advocacy.

AFIRE recognizes the pain and struggles related to oppression being faced by so many. We recognize that is not enough to offer support, we must also take action to address systems of power. We are engaging in advocacy, education, and relationship building to further solidarity at UNL and create change. UNL students and employees can join us or find out about our events at <https://cehs.unl.edu/afire/>.

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