

**From:** [Laura Talamante](#)  
**To:** [Susanne Walker](#)  
**Date:** Monday, June 29, 2020 1:52:16 PM

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**From:** Jennifer Brandt <jbrandt@csudh.edu>

**Sent:** Friday, June 12, 2020 4:17 PM

**To:** DH Email <dhemail@csudh.edu>

**Subject:** Women's Studies Program Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter and the Demands of the Africana Studies Department

[Women's Studies Program Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter and the Demands of the Africana Studies Department](#)

CSUDH's Women's Studies Program supports the demands put forth by the Africana Studies Department, whose letter and action items can be found and signed here: <https://forms.gle/VvzvCVcVj4uFT5G6A>. We encourage our peers to investigate the ways in which their departments support what bell hooks refers to as "imperialist, white-supremacist, capitalist patriarchy." We unequivocally affirm that Black Lives Matter, and we will continuously ensure that our intellectual and activist work reflects this insight. Our curriculum has been, and will continue to be, grounded in decolonizing pedagogy; the works and theories of women of color; and queer, non-binary, and gender-expansive voices and worldviews.

As an academic discipline that views teaching, learning, and activism as part of an inseparable whole, we stand in solidarity with our Black students and those risking their lives protesting the routinized state violence, inhumanity, surveillance and murder of Black bodies in the United States. #BlackLivesMatter was founded by three Black women -- Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullers, and Opal Tometi -- though their herstory is often overshadowed and their queerness invisibilized. We say the names of Sandra Bland, Breonna Taylor, Reika Boyd, Mya Hall, and Korryn Gaines and countless other Black women and trans people who are victims of police violence. We especially shine light on the death of Nina Pop and other Black trans women whose murder rates are seven times higher than that of the general population. Locally, we understand the contemporary moment within a long history of radical resistance in Southern California. This history ranges from the Cooper Do-Nut Riots, where police brutality rooted in racism, transphobia, and homophobia was resisted and exposed by Black and brown transwomen; to the Watts Rebellion, which won major gains for South LA, including the establishment of CSUDH; to the 1992 Los Angeles Uprising in response not only to the LAPD's brutal assault of Rodney King, but also the state-sanctioned murder of fifteen-year-old Latasha Harlins. As feminists we honor this history of resistance and are committed to reflect it in our pedagogy.

White supremacy is our nation's greatest ill, and the feminist movement has not escaped its contagion. As we continue our work to imagine and cultivate a more just world, we recognize that our labor is aligned with, and indebted to, the critical intellectual, emotional, and physical work that countless others, particularly Black women and other women of color, have done before us. Our faculty and curriculum acknowledge this history while working toward a more inclusive movement to end sexism in tandem with intersecting facets of oppression including

race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and religion.

We know there are no options besides demanding a better future. Today, and always, we send love and strength to our students. Turning thought into action, they pave the way for a more hopeful future for all.

Signed,

Tahereh Aghdasifar  
Karama Blackhorn  
Jenn Brandt  
Kristina Karakus  
Cristina Rose Smith

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Pronouns: she/her/hers