



*July 08 2020*

**Statement in solidarity with global movement demanding justice for Black communities**

Academia is a reflection of society. Therefore, both as students in Higher Education and citizens of an increasingly connected world, we are witnesses to how discrimination weighs on Black students, people and communities in general.

There are many forms in which racism manifests itself. Not only do Black people face racist behaviour in day-to-day interpersonal interactions but, in a more deep-seated and profound way, they are generally affected by structural, institutional racism, born out of a shameful history of colonial exploitation. These factors remain unsolved by decades of negligence and inaction in addressing the systemic disparities that negatively impact Black communities on an international and national scales. They are unacceptable in light of the ideal of universal human rights, achievable through the urgent and necessary efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals as an international standard of a just society.

Conscientious of the global movement calling for justice for Black people following the death of George Floyd - one more homicide resulting from police brutality - that has echoed in the streets, news and social media, we have the responsibility not to be silent and to state our position. We wholeheartedly express our full solidarity with all those denouncing racism in all its forms and with communities targeted by racism, discrimination, bigotry and all related forms of violence, including Black students within our student communities.

We must never forget: Black Lives Matter! Let us do everything in our capacity as students and active citizens to make sure these aren't just words, but materialize into a truly equal and just reality!