STATEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

As historians and students of history, we apply our research and our methods to an interrogation of the past. At the same time, it is our responsibility to speak out both in our capacity as trained historians and as engaged citizens.

Unfortunately, the past continues to weigh us down. The structural racism that undergirded this nation’s historical development persists. The institutions charged with protecting rights have too often failed to prevent injustices and instead perpetuated them. The murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, and countless others remind us of the gap between our nation’s ideals and their uneven application in daily life. It doesn’t end there: the dehumanizing insidiousness of racism and xenophobia has also produced systemic economic, educational, social, judicial, and—as the COVID-19 pandemic has made clear—health inequalities. Sometimes, however, catalyzing events remind us of what some of you have probably experienced: the disposability of life when wearing a hoodie or being suspected of a petty offense can cost you your life.

As faculty and students of history, we recall the many times that protest has raised the nation's consciousness, serving as a clarion call against violence, inequality, and injustice. Today, therefore, we stand in solidarity with the victims of racism and xenophobia; further, we support those who are currently taking a principled stance in protesting and challenging not just racism’s materialization in discrimination, profiling, and brutality but also its manifestation in privilege.

Let’s be honest: university campuses are not exempt from the privilege and inequality that characterize our stratified society. In taking stock of who we are and what we can do, we pledge to be vigilant against all forms of racism and expressions of hatred and to commit to social justice, economic and educational opportunities, and cultural empowerment for all. Finally, we further vow to continue to learn and to listen so that our alliance can be more impactful and meaningful.

Dorothy Abrahamse, Department of History, Dean Emeritus, College of Liberal Arts, Provost Emeritus, CSULB

Gregory Beirich, Department of History

Karla Beltrán, Department of History

Matt Berkley, Department of History

Emily Berquist, Department of History

Donna Binkiewicz, Department of History

Jeffrey Blutinger, Department of History; Director, Jewish Studies

Isachar Bolaños, Department of History

Daniele Bolelli, Department of History

Neal Cates, Department of History

Patricia Cleary, Department of History

Jane Dabel, Department of History

Kate Flach, Department of History

Richard Flamein, Department of History

Andrew Fogleman, Department of History

Stephanie Gonzalez-Doo, Department of History

Gail Hamilton, Department of History

Angela Hawk, Department of History

Holly Hernandez, Department of History

Ali İğmen, Department of History

Andrew Jenks, Department of History

Marissa Jenrich, Department of History

Rajbir Singh Judge, Department of History

Marie Kelleher, Department of History

Margaret Kuo, Department of History

Mik Larsen, Department of History

Jeffrey Lawler, Department of History

Guotong Li, Department of History

Eileen Luhr, Department of History

Brett Mizelle, Department of History; Director, American Studies

Caitlin Murdock, Department of History

Brian O’Neil, Department of History

Caitlin Parker, Department of History

Ulíces Piña, Department of History

Charles Ponce de Leon, Department of History

Nancy Quam-Wickham, Department of History

Robert Schraff III, Department of History

Sarah Schrank, Department of History

David A. Shafer, Chair, Department of History

David Sheridan, Department of History

Sean Smith, Department of History

Michiko Takeuchi, Department of History

Susan Tsuji, Department of History

Marjan Wardaki, Department of History

Hugh Wilford, Department of History