

***This letter was conceived of and generated by a core group of faculty in the Critical Race, Gender, and Culture Studies Collaborative (CRGC, <http://www.american.edu/cas/crgc>) and the Humanities Lab working group, Races, Empires, & Diasporas (RED, <http://aumanitieslab.com/races-empires-and-diasporas>). We encourage all AU departments and schools to come up with their own specific action plans in consultation with students.*

An Open Letter to Students of Color at American University:

As a body of concerned AU faculty, we are writing to let you know that we stand firmly in support of you in this time of tension and stress. We hear your voices. Your anger, your sadness, your frustration, and your calls for action are justified. We are proud of your tenacity and your courage to demand change.

Like you, we are dismayed, saddened, and angry, and we vigorously condemn last week's racist acts as abhorrent and unacceptable at AU or anywhere else in our world. We recognize that the past week's residence-hall incidents are only the most recent in a series of racist events on AU's campus. The overall climate at AU has been and still is far from affirming or inclusive for students of color.

We write this letter to make a public statement of our shared commitment to bolster your efforts and to continue to call upon AU to make substantive and structural changes to combat racism, particularly anti-blackness, on our campus. Our office doors are always open. We are here to listen to your concerns and ideas. We offer our individual and collective support and leverage to help make this campus safe, welcoming, and equitable for all students.

Yet, our purpose in writing this letter isn't simply to offer encouragement and support. We are committed to working with students on strategies for achieving many of the concrete points of action that have been enumerated at public events.

#solidaritywithoursisters

Signed,

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