

## **Middlebury Philosophy Department Letter in Support to Black Lives Matter**

The violent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, and so many other Black Americans have ignited justified outrage. Police brutality of this sort is a recurring theme in a long history of systemic racism that continues into the present. Middlebury's Philosophy Department condemns racism and prejudice in all forms. We stand in solidarity with the protestors marching for the Black Lives Matter and Say Her Name movements, as well as with the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) members of the Middlebury community.

We are committed to being a welcoming and inclusive department for students from all backgrounds, especially BIPOC students. Yet we recognize that the philosophy that we research and teach is often complicit in the history and institutions of systemic racism. We also know that the current philosophical community, both at Middlebury and globally, is not as inclusive as it ought to be. We need to be explicit and transparent in communicating that we are committed to addressing and seeking to overcome racism, sexism and all forms of marginalization at Middlebury College and in our profession.

As a department and as faculty members, we commit to enriching our critical dialogue on issues of race, oppression, and social justice. Specifically, we will review the content of our curriculum and address issues concerning under-representation, plan events that focus on philosophy's contributions to broader anti-racism efforts, and engage in critical conversations about how to address the whiteness embedded within much of philosophical literature. In the coming year we will begin this work with a planned forum for our faculty and students to discuss these issues and meaningful changes that we could make to how philosophy at Middlebury College is practiced.

Establishing a community-in which people of all colors and backgrounds are given a voice, involves difficult but important critical work. The recent instances of police brutality are not new and cannot be ignored. Their suffering and struggles are a strong reminder that we must aspire to do better in combating systematic racism.

### ***The Philosophy Department***

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