University of Iowa School of Social Work
Statement on the Atrocity in Charleston, South Carolina

The University of Iowa School of Social Work stands with our fellow communities as we grieve and reflect following the horrific murders in the Emanuel African Episcopal Church of Charleston, South Carolina. We acknowledge that this tragedy is one of many manifestations of the pervasive and infectious racial injustice systemically imbedded in this country.

This week, we participate in the active conversations that are occurring throughout the country. While we acknowledge the progress our communities have made over the years, and indeed just in the last week. We believe much work has yet to be done.

The University of Iowa School of Social Work is an active part in the efforts to educate and participate in community events that seek to further justice for all in our community and state. As our mission states, we educate our graduates to be culturally competent scholars and practitioners committed to social justice and social work values and ethics, prepared to serve in and have a positive impact on a broad range of family-centered and community-based practice settings throughout the state of Iowa and beyond.

This fall, the school will be hosting monthly events in our very own Wild Bill's Coffee Shop to provide opportunities for students, faculty and community members to discuss the current state of social justice, covering a wide range of topics including policy and practice.

Additionally, the School of Social Work continues to be the administrative home for the Certificate of Critical Cultural Competence. As stated in the program’s description, coursework on this certificate is designed for students to “build the knowledge, skills, and attitudes they will need in order to increase their effectiveness in relating to others across cultural differences and in domestic and international environments that are increasingly diverse.” Information on the Certificate can be found here: [refer to URL]

The School also continues to maintain a relationship with the University of Iowa’s Chief Diversity Office. Information on the CDO can be found here: [refer to URL]

The University of Iowa School of Social Work Diversity & Social Justice Committee

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