STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND FACULTY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT COLUMBIA

The students at the University of Missouri at Columbia successfully led a movement to address racism and social injustice on their campus. The Diversity and Social Justice Committee at The University of Iowa School of Social Work stands in solidarity with the students at UM.

Universities are places of the safe exchange of diverse ideas. Free speech is a fundamental part of this understanding. Hate speech, however, has no place in this discourse. It is antithetical to a learning environment. It inflames fear. It supports silence.

The University of Iowa School of Social Work continues to support and maintain a Diversity and Social Justice. Our initiatives include:

- Meeting with all incoming students of social work, reviewing expectations for open discourse in all areas of our curriculum, including refraining from prejudicial language and discriminating behavior, and challenging stereotypes;

- Engaging our students through weekly open-door sessions called Common Grounds, where students are welcome to discuss social justice issues affecting them;

- Affiliating with the University of Iowa’s Chief Diversity Office. In cooperation with the campus office for the National Coalition Building Institute, all students admitted to our programs complete a thorough live, in-person workshop at the beginning of their plan of study with the School of Social Work.


http://diversity.uiowa.edu/office/chief-diversity-office

http://diversity.uiowa.edu/programs/national-coalition-building-institute

http://clas.uiowa.edu/socialwork/