As a department comprising diverse faculty, staff, and students from across the world, including from different US communities, we affirm that Black Lives Matter. We speak out against the systemic and historic injustices that have disadvantaged the Black community in the US from slavery to the present day, we commit ourselves to action to address these injustices, as we mourn the loss of countless innocents to the violence of police and other state agents.

Our department has moved increasingly in recent years to teaching and studying the interface of identity, language, and culture, locating within these themes spaces for exploring resistance to forms of historical oppression and injustice. Nonetheless, we commit ourselves to doing more, in particular to supporting Black members of the Tufts community, and to contributing to discussions around how to change policing on our campus and in our broader communities.

To this end, we will work together in the coming years to orienting as much as possible our teaching and public engagements to an aim of supporting the struggle against racism and discrimination, drawing from our experiences globally and applying these locally. We stand in solidarity with those who have suffered the devastation of institutional forms of racial prejudice and police violence.