



Unity, Solidarity, and Commitment Statement

We recognize that racism has a deep-rooted history in the United States and that it permeates all aspects of contemporary culture. We also acknowledge that racism results from individual, societal, and systemic actions. In the aftermath of recent killings of Tony McDade, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless others not covered in the media, and given the current climate of protests and demand for systemic change in our country, the staff of the University Honors Program is taking time to stop and reflect. As a team, we are committed to reflect on our privilege, positionality and our spheres of influence to do the work of identifying, addressing, and dismantling systems of oppression and structural inequities based on white supremacist beliefs. We aim to incorporate this work within UHP's philosophy, policies, and everyday practices. We invite our UHP community members to join us in these efforts as we continue to learn how to implement changes that uphold our values of human dignity, justice, and inclusivity.

In the same vein, we also:

- acknowledge the pain, distress, and rage of all campus community members of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) as part of our identity to ensure social justice;
- stand with our students and with all the members of our community who face structural inequalities, whether that be at a personal, academic, or professional level, and renounce any expression of white supremacy;
- condemn all forms of racism and xenophobia;
- stand against the murder of African Americans and other People of color and against racial profiling, police brutality, and discrimination;
- decry all forms of racism and expressions of hatred;
- denounce the impunity with which members of law enforcement commit acts of violence against BIPOC;
- call to dismantle the system that makes these acts possible;
- support unequivocally that Black Lives Matter and must be made to matter to those who disregard and disrespect it;
- offer our privilege, agency, and voice in the service of members of our campus community who are targets of hate or intolerance;
- promote values of human dignity, justice, and inclusivity at our university and beyond.

In unity and solidarity,

The UHP team

