



MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Charlottesville and Beyond Statement School of Social Work at Monmouth University

In the last few weeks, Monmouth students and employees received a very important message from our President, Grey Dimenna in which he stressed the University's commitment to a community that encompasses mutual caring, respect, diversity and integrity, along with an active commitment to "ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for every individual, without exception".

The School of Social Work at Monmouth University remains steadfast in our commitment to social and economic justice and human rights in these troubling times. We stand up and speak out against White Supremacy, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism, anti-Semitism, anti-immigrant racism, heterosexism, sexism, classism and all forms of oppression. As a profession, we are committed to working for and with vulnerable populations to create inclusive, welcoming, safe and socially just communities in which all individuals and families can thrive. We stand in solidarity with our friends, neighbors, colleagues, students, alumni and all vulnerable populations that have been targeted by acts of hatred, violence, bigotry and policies of racial profiling. We also realize that without economic justice the lives of many in this country will experience continued suffering. We know that this work begins within ourselves, our profession, and our families and communities and requires courage, honesty, leadership, and action.

We must all take action, wherever and whenever we can. Adapting some suggestions from our social work colleagues at the University of Iowa, we share this list:

1. Call your elected officials and demand real action against White Supremacy and hate groups;
2. Recommit to your own personal efforts in fighting oppression on campus and in your home communities;
3. Educate yourself and others by attending and organizing sit-ins, discussions, and other advocacy events;
4. Use social media to voice your concerns and by calling out "Domestic Terrorism". Help turn the tide against euphemisms that soften the tone of violent acts against members of marginalized groups;
5. Refuse to be a bystander...use your voice and skills to confront oppression when you see it;
6. Support and join fellow faculty members who have organized PUSH – Professors United for a Safe Haven;
7. If issues related to discrimination, oppression, racism or any of the other forms of oppression mentioned above occur during your field internship, please notify the Office of Field and Professional Education and the Dean. We will work with you and other University resources to provide support and direction.
8. If you need additional support, please contact the Monmouth University Counseling and Psychological Services Department to make an appointment at: 732-571-7517 or by emailing mucounseling@monmouth.edu or by visiting the office on the 3rd floor of the Stafford Student Center. Counseling and Psychological Services encourages you to contact them with any questions or concerns you may have. Please keep in mind that e-mail and voice messages should NOT be used to convey urgent, time-sensitive information as an immediate receipt/response is not guaranteed. Walk-in services are available during office hours for urgent matters.

Letter from the President:

Dear students, friends and colleagues:

Our shared commitment to building a community of mutual caring and respect, diversity, and integrity does not stop when classes are finished, or take a pause before the new academic year begins.

The sad and shocking events in Charlottesville, Va., this past weekend are a stark reminder that our educational mission is vital, and perhaps more important than ever, to extinguish bigotry and violence, and to affect positive change in the world.

As an academic enterprise based on exploration of diverse thought, we must balance freedom of expression with an active commitment to ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for every individual, without exception.

As we prepare to come together on campus in just a few short weeks, I know you will join me in condemning hatred, bigotry, and violence in all forms as well as offering support to those who may be feeling vulnerable. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming campus for all.

Sincerely,

Grey J. Dimenna, Esq.
President

PUSH (Professors United for a Safe Haven)

Purpose: To demonstrate to our students and the wider community that we stand behind President Dimenna's recent statement emphasizing "our shared commitment to building a community of mutual caring and respect, diversity, and integrity" and to join him in "condemning hatred, bigotry, and violence in all forms [and] offering support to those who may be feeling vulnerable." The event on September 6th is designed to show our students that we continue to be committed to protecting our classrooms and our campus as a space for the free and genuine pursuit of knowledge and understanding for the common good; to publicly pledge our willingness to protect our students from harassment, intimidation, and violence in that pursuit; to show our students that we intend to PUSH BACK against rising tides of prejudice, hatred, intolerance, old and new, by continuing to do what we do, namely challenging students to think critically about the history and current manifestations of oppression and inequality using tools afforded us across the wealth of disciplines that make up our vibrant intellectual community.