

UB Gender Institute Summer 2020 Message from the Director

Carrie Bramen, Professor of English

Dear Gender Institute Community,

I write to you today to share my sadness, anger, and grief over the events of the past few days. The brutal killings of George Floyd in Minnesota, Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia, Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, and Tony McDade in Florida, together with the blatant act of racism against Christian Cooper in New York City, all point to the fact that we have a long way to go before we become a truly inclusive and progressive nation.

These recent killings also point to the intersectionality of hate, where racism against African Americans is coupled with misogynoir (Breonna Taylor) and transphobia (Tony McDade).

This injustice is further highlighted by the fact that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted communities of color in the US, especially in our own state of New York. This global pandemic has exposed the persistent racial, social, and economic inequities that continue to exist in our city, our state, and our nation.

Angela Davis once said “I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.” With those words in mind, let us all take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to the struggle for justice in all its forms.

Despite recent events, I am hopeful about our future as I see the younger generation—the generation of our students and soon-to-be students-- peacefully protesting against injustice in truly diverse and inclusive groups. I share their outrage and their hope for a more democratic future.

In the spirit of hope, I share with you a painting that my fifteen-year old daughter completed last night.

In solidarity,
Carrie

