

Dear UB Gender Institute Community,

This weekend's massacre in Buffalo continues to shake our community to its core. We continue to grieve for the families that have experienced unspeakable loss, for the Masten District, which witnessed unbearable violence, and for our city, which so many of us have called home for a long time.

This weekend's massacre is a reminder that white supremacy in its various forms—from White Replacement Theory to banning books and attacking curricula dedicated to teaching about race and racism—has become increasingly normalized in our society as well as more violent. This attack is also an important reminder of what educational institutions such as ours must continue to do to counter this ideology of hate.

But there is another type of violence, one that disproportionately impacts communities of color, that has emerged this weekend in interviews with the people in the Masten district. The everyday structural violence of redlining, poverty, food insecurity, and food deserts receives less attention because it is less spectacular, but it is equally devastating.

In moving forward from this weekend's events, we need to recognize and act on the connections between white supremacist terrorism and structural racism. Only in this way can we both heal and prevent further tragedies of this kind from happening.