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Black Lives Matter

Though I can't claim to understand the hurt and pain the Black community has endured for generations, I am saddened, disturbed, and angered at the racism, violence, and police brutality against Black people in the US. Deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Tony McDade are not isolated incidents. There is a long history of systemic racism and anti-Blackness in the US that needs to be acknowledged and addressed.

As a researcher, educator, and Latina voter, I stand in solidarity with those protesting around the world. I condemn systemic racism and white supremacy. I will not tolerate racism in any form in my personal or academic life. I am committed to helping dismantle racism and being an ally to the Black community.

We must, now more than ever, move beyond statements into actions.

- I am listening and learning from the Black community – their stories and their struggles.
- I am reflecting on my own prejudices and changing my actions.
- I am not burdening the Black community with the task of educating non-Black people; I am seeking out resources to educate myself (see [document](#) of resources I've compiled).
- I am committed to having uncomfortable conversations with family, friends, and others.
- I vow to speak up against racist comments.
- I pledge to advocate for Black voices and needs in academia. I am demanding action from UCI administration (e.g. UCI School of Biological Sciences) regarding system racism in academia and polices.

Though these actions themselves are not enough, I will work to bring change and justice as an ally to the BLM movement in my personal and professional life. This is a lifelong commitment – not a momentary fad.

#BlackLivesMatter

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