

## **Center for Global Engagement Statement on racism, xenophobia, and tribalism**

The protests and demonstrations of the past two weeks, borne out of frustration over the death of George Floyd while in police custody, have highlighted racial disparities in the U.S. These issues are not a uniquely American problem as racism, xenophobia, and tribalism are found across the globe. Too often, these ills are reinforced by authoritarian regimes and their use of policing tactics most of us find abhorrent. We too, share disappointment and despair over the current state of affairs. However, as global educators, we are committed to a better world, one that promotes peace and understanding across the globe in order to create a more perfect harmony among people of all nations.

That commitment extends to everything we do from encouraging the use of educational materials that are internationally diverse and varied, to promoting the robust exchange of international and domestic students, and creating spaces for the views of scholars and researchers from across the globe to be shared and to exchange ideas. It is our belief, anchored at the core of our field, that through the exchange of people and ideas we can change the world. We can bring together the most dynamic minds from across the globe. We can bring together those committed to economic and social justice – a fundamental human right – to address our common issues. We can bring together the powerful and the disenfranchised and seek solutions that forge a better path.

We must commit to real reform. We must commit to the ideals of inclusion and equity. We must commit to change as we seek social justice and diversity. In 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the 72 years since, all 192 member states of the UN have signed on in agreement which recognizes, “...the inherent dignity and... the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

It is time that each of us recommit ourselves to these highest ideals, that all of humanity, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin are, in the words of Nelson Mandela, “born equal, with each entitled in equal measure to life, liberty, prosperity, human rights and good governance.”

We grieve together with those that are denied these rights.