



University of Plymouth Statement on Black Lives Matter

The tragic deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Stephon Clark, Tamir Rice and the many others whose names we do not know have brought sadness and anguish to our University community and our deepest sympathies go to the families and friends of those who have been impacted.

As a University community we have been deeply moved by these tragic events in the US which have clearly highlighted the racial inequalities that are still sadly prevalent in all parts of society. Staff and students have voiced the need for change as part of the Black Lives Matter movement and we must support and respond to these calls.

The University of Plymouth places great importance on equality, diversity and inclusion. Over the past twelve months we have made further strides in enacting our zero-tolerance pledge against all forms of abuse, harm and hate including racism in whatever form it presents itself. In direct response to the Black Lives Matter movement we have donated funds to both Plymouth Hope to support their work in the local BAME community and Plymouth Pride to support their work with LGBT+ asylum seekers in Plymouth. We continue to be a long-standing supporter of Diversity Business Incubator in Plymouth by providing resource and staffing to help in their work with local BAME entrepreneurs.

The Black Lives Matter movement galvanises us all to address the engrained inequalities, biases and pervasive racism that still exists in, but should have no place in, modern society. We are committed to further building on our current work to further address racism, abuse, harm and hate. We understand that as a University we have a responsibility to always do better and to lead the way in responding to inequalities and inequities in society.

We strongly urge anyone who has experienced abuse, harm or hate at the University to report these incidents to us at the earliest opportunity. Staff, students and visitors can report incidents via several routes:

- [Speak Up](#) – our online, anonymous reporting tool
- [Dignity and Respect Advisors](#) – a network of trained, confidential advisors who can offer a listening ear and guidance on next steps
- Our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team](#) can offer confidential, non-judgmental advice and go through your options with you

We recognise that this is a time of trauma and distress for our community, and that some staff and students will be particularly strongly affected. This is a reminder that support is available. Students are encouraged to contact [Student Services](#) with their concerns and to access [wellbeing support](#) from wherever they are, whilst staff and contractors can contact [Human Resources](#) to report their concerns and access support.



UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Over the coming weeks and months we will continue our work on tackling racism and address any questions related to how the University responds to racism, how we monitor our progress and how we celebrate our diverse community at the University of Plymouth. We will always do our best to improve the lives of our Black, Asian, minority-ethnic staff and students.

The University of Plymouth joins as a community of staff and students to affirm that Black Lives Matter.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judith Petts', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Professor Judith Petts CBE
Vice-Chancellor, University of Plymouth

5th June 2020