

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY

We, the faculty in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, affirm that

- Verbal, written, and physical attacks on people because of their identity are not the same as criticism of people for their political beliefs. The former attempts to erase the humanity of individuals, the latter is an expression of ideological difference that can lead to civic discourse. The former is unacceptable, while the latter is a useful space to begin conversations.
- The work of understanding privilege, marginalization, and intersectionality is difficult and ongoing but important. By exploring our positions in society, we can come together to create solidarity and active allyship.
- The current political, economic, and cultural environment has real world consequences on the safety, inclusion, and belonging of the GVSU community. A significant body of research maintains that increasing a student's own sense of inclusion, safety and belonging leads to substantial educational success.

We recognize that acts of bullying, aggression, and fear mongering over the past year are manifestations of a larger issue related to societal inequalities and a rhetoric that allows for the vilification and continued marginalization of vulnerable groups of people. We condemn individual acts of violence as much as we condemn institutional racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and ableism.

As a department charged with teaching students to engage with the world around them in a critical and interdisciplinary way, we reaffirm our support of all students and our commitment to social justice.

As a faculty and as members of the GVSU community, we also recognize our responsibility to stand up in solidarity with students brave enough to share their stories of fear, hope, and resistance to structural violence and discrimination. We continue to support our students' right to protest and to perform civil disobedience against structural violence on- and off-campus. We will continue to speak out, often, and in community with the principles of intercultural understanding and civic engagement.

Sincerely,

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies Faculty and Staff