Statement from the Department of Economics

The murder of George Floyd, the police killings of other members of the Black community, and the violence against peaceful protestors has shocked all those who are privileged to neither suffer from such treatment nor to live in fear of such aggression. As faculty in the Department of Economics, we stand with those seeking justice in the streets of Minneapolis in demanding such abuses stop; stop now and for all time.

As citizens and supporters of equality and justice, we demand fulfillment of the Republic’s pledge to be one nation, with liberty and justice for all.

As members of the University community, we pledge to maintain an environment that is welcoming to all, and that seeks to help each person reach their goals and to reach their full potential.

As researchers, we have a duty to provide facts and policy guidance that take into account the diverse histories and situations of the peoples who have been brought together to create our nation. This is a special duty, as all persons can contribute to making a more perfect nation and all communities and work places ought to be supportive of each person, but faculty members are uniquely positioned to contribute within their areas of expertise. We also recognize a concomitant duty to respect the expertise of others, including those who have lived very different experiences from those of the typical faculty member.

We pledge to continue and to strengthen our support of Black students here on campus and to continue and to strengthen our support for our Black colleagues around the country. Our department, our campus, and our nation must move from non-racist to anti-racist. As community members, as economists, as faculty, we will do our part to speed this transformation so that we may finally become a Great country for all.