



March 3, 2017

Statement on Anti-Feminist and Anti-Black Vandalism at Thorneloe University from the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (located at Laurentian U)

Earlier this week (28 February 2017 - the last day of Black History Month), the office doors of two faculty members at Thorneloe University at Laurentian University (Sudbury, ON) were vandalized, leaving our school with the chilling reminder of the persistence and rise of anti-Black and anti-feminist backlash in these troubling times. We are in support of Thorneloe University's investigation into this hate crime and call on Laurentian Security Services to do the same.

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies calls on all students, staff, faculty and members of the Sudbury community to stand with us against all forms of hatred, especially those forms that take shape in: anti-Black racism; gendered violence in sexism, transphobia, and anti-feminist attacks; Islamophobia; colonialism; and all forms of violence that intersect across gender, sexuality, and race.

The vandalism done to our learning environment is a manifestation of the violence emerging across university campuses. In the same week that Islamophobic attacks shut down Concordia University, we believe it is crucial to unite behind our shared values of diversity, inclusion, and justice by promoting visibility, supporting our faculty, staff and students, and using this act of violence as a pedagogical moment to centre our classrooms, campus spaces, and community with a clear message that hatred is not welcome here.

How you can take a stand:

- Start & continue having conversations in your classes, workplaces, and networks about ending discrimination, harassment, and injustice with a focus on the recent spreading of anti-feminist, anti-Black racist, and Islamophobic violence.
- Share these messages and posters around your offices, classrooms, and community spaces to show support and visibility for diversity on campus:
 - A Feminist Professor Works Here (see link)
http://www.csa-scs.ca/files/www/A_Feminist_Professor_-_2-1.pdf
 - #BlackLivesMatter
 - Feminists Work Here
 - Take a Stand Against Gendered Violence
 - No Islamophobia

Signatories

Shana Calixte, Sessional Lecturer, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
OmiSoore Dryden, Chair, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Jennifer Johnson, Associate Professor, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Natalie Kouri-Towe, Assistant Professor, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Aven McMaster, Chair, Department of Ancient Studies

To add your name as a signatory on this statement or for questions, contact: WGSX@thorneloe.ca

If you're facing harassment and/or discrimination, there's support on campus:

- Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights Office at Laurentian
<https://laurentian.ca/equity-diversity-and-human-rights>
- Thorneloe University Harassment and Discrimination Policy
<http://www.thorneloe.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Harassment-Policy-Final-9-16.pdf>

Here are some useful educative links:

- Definition of anti-Black racism
<http://www.workingwhileblackns.com/what-is-anti-black-racism/>
- Black Lives Matter at Work: A Resource Guide for Workers and Organizers (compiled by the Young Worker Media Project)
<http://agendatobuildblackfutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/black-lives-matter-at-work-young-worker-media-project.pdf>
- House of Commons, Canada Bill M-103 Private Members' Bill on Systemic Racism and Religious Discrimination, MP Iqra Khalid
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/Parliamentarians/en/members/IqraKhalid%2888849%29/Motions?sessionId=152&documentId=8661986>
- 10 Things Men Can do to Prevent Gender Violence
<http://jacksonkatz.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/10-Things-Flyer.pdf>
- Ontario's Anti-Racism Directorate
https://www.ontario.ca/page/anti-racism-directorate?_ga=1.95606687.2013681933.1465843757
- The Ontario Human Rights Commission
www.ohrc.on.ca