

## Statement on the Chauvin Verdict

We, the faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice at Fayetteville State University, are given some hope by the verdict against Derek Chauvin, reached on April 20th, 2021. We believe that a measure of justice was achieved for the murder of George Floyd. However, the verdict against Chauvin does not achieve “justice” for the innumerable instances of state violence against Black men and women and other persons of color in our country. While we are pleased that yesterday our country took one small step towards punishing representatives of the state for committing acts of violence against Black people, we know that the fight for racial justice in our criminal legal system is far from over. Thus, we wish to make our mission clear. Our department is unequivocally committed to the fight for racial justice, and we will continue to critique and seek to change the systems of oppression that have created the police brutality that occurs every day in our nation. We strive to foster an environment in which students with a vision for social change and practitioners wishing to shape their fields can learn and grow. We will continue to offer classes that challenge the status quo and do so in a way that helps students to find a balance between activism and education. We know that we have a lot of work to do, and we hope that you will join us.

