“*My response to racism is anger. I have lived with that anger, ignoring it, feeding upon it, learning to use it before it laid my visions to waste, for most of my life. Once I did it in silence, afraid of the weight. My fear of anger taught me nothing. Your fear of that anger will teach you nothing…*”

# Audre Lorde, “The uses of anger: Women responding to racism” (an address to participants of the National Women’s Studies Association Conference in 1981).

We the signatories to the following statement, members of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Marquette University, want to address the police violence in Kenosha and the suffering inflicted right in our backyard on Jacob Blake, his family, and his community. We stand with all our Black and Brown brothers and sisters suffering from racist violence. The pain and anger caused by the wounds inflicted on Jacob Blake have been exacerbated by the additional racially-motivated shooting and murder of two peaceful protestors. Kenosha teaches us that:

* Systemic racism is a public health crisis and a threat to all;
* By protecting Black Lives we are protecting *all* lives;
* We have every right to express our anger against the institutions and ways of thinking that undermine the sacredness of human life.

We condemn the police violence and the shootings in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and pledge:

* to create a safe space for anyone moved to discuss their thoughts and feelings on racism and its intersectional ramifications;
* to support Black Student Council’s efforts against racism on campus;
* to promote an antiracist agenda in our curricular choices and pedagogical methods;
* to embody antiracist servant leadership within the Marquette University community and beyond by means of outreach and educational programs open to the public.

Angela Davis emphasizes the extraordinary juncture in history in which we are witnessing a shift in popular consciousness about racism: “if one does not engage in the ongoing work when such a moment arises, we cannot take advantage of the opportunities to change.”

*Eugenia Afinoguénova, Abel Arango, Pilar Bellver, Jeffrey Coleman, Dinorah Cortés-Vélez, Tara Daly, Scott Dale, Ana Escudero, Sarah Gendron, Sergio Gonzalez, Julia Grubich, Todd Hernandez, Islam Hindi, Jen-Li Ko, Teresa Krejcarek, Michelle Medeiros, Enaya Othman, Anne Pasero, Julia Paulk, LK Phelps, Giordana Poggioli-Kaftan, John Pustejovsky, Bo Tieszen, Michael Anthony Turcios, Maria Valerio Capella, Jennifer Vanderheyden.*