A Stand Against Racism & Discrimination
From the Economics Faculty, Staff Members, and Graduate Students

The USC Dornsife Department of Economics stands with the urgent cause of eliminating systematic racism in the economics profession. We also affirm the need to foster more research and teaching on racial inequality and discrimination.

Our department recognizes that there are many steps we need to take as an organization to address the exclusion of Black economists and to ensure their representation and fair treatment in the profession. We also recognize that there is much for us to do to address the lack of diversity in the profession and we commit to taking steps that will support the paths of groups that are underrepresented in economics.

Among the very first steps,

a) We commit to actively participate and engage in our University’s efforts towards improving the recruitment of Black and other underrepresented groups at Dornsife by expanding our efforts to recruit these students to our PhD program and by identifying and proactively mentoring promising USC undergraduates in groups that are underrepresented in economics.

(b) We will create a new course on the Economics of Race and Discrimination in the format of a General Education (GE) course, as GE courses serve the purpose of introducing freshmen students to the different departments. In this and other courses we will strive to give proper representation to the academic work of Black economists, which is often overlooked. We hope these efforts can serve the dual purpose of demonstrating the potential of economics training as a way to study race and discrimination and to expose all students to the work of Black role models in the profession.

(c) We will create the department service role of Diversity Inclusion Director that ensures that recruitment committees follow diversity and inclusion protocols. The Diversity Inclusion Director will also serve as co-mentor of existing junior faculty in underrepresented groups and run a diversity recruiting program (such as a pipeline program for recruitment of PhD students in underrepresented groups).

(d) We will collect and analyze diversity data on applications, admissions and offers to all of our programs and academic positions.

We understand these steps are just the start of our commitment and we will continue to engage in the conversation of race and discrimination in the economics profession and beyond in order to produce a more comprehensive set of principles as well as plan of actions.