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DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM AND THE WRITING PROFESSIONS

We, the faculty of Baruch College’s Department of Journalism and the Writing Professions, strongly oppose systemic racism and injustice. We stand with the journalists who are bravely reporting on the protests sparked by the brutal killing of George Floyd by police, only the latest of such senseless deaths.

As journalism educators and journalists, we object strongly to attacks upon and interference with journalists exercising their Constitutional role to shine a light on the workings and failings of government. We repudiate President Trump’s mischaracterization of journalists as “enemies of the people,” and we call upon our political leaders, public officials and police to respect and protect working journalists and demonstrators who peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights.

Divisive rhetoric and misinformation underscore the need for well-trained journalists who can speak truth to power and for a discerning, informed news audience.

We pledge to:

1. Help our students develop into ethical, educated consumers of and contributors to news coverage.
2. Train students to report on injustice and abuse of power and to educate them about their rights and responsibilities.
3. Work to improve coverage of underserved communities and to increase the diversity of the news media.
4. Support the freedom and safety of the journalists upon whom our society depends for news coverage that exposes social injustice and holds public officials accountable.

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