

The Commission for Women wants to alert you to the fact that one of our sister commissions, the Chancellor's Commission for Blacks, has released a powerful statement regarding the disparate impact both the COVID-19 pandemic and pervasive, continuing racial profiling, harassment, and violence have had on people of color. The statement expresses "discontent, disappointment, and frustration with the injustice facing many Blacks in our great nation."

As fellow advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the Commission for Women shares the concerns of our friends and colleagues in the Commission for Blacks. The injustices are clear; the effects on those in and outside our campus community are devastating. Like the Commission for Blacks, we support impacted students, faculty, staff, and others. As many have noted, we can and must do better in addressing the inequities that divide us and harm members of our community—especially, in these times, those that affect our Black brothers and sisters.

In that spirit, we join in the hope and optimism expressed by the Commission for Blacks about overcoming our past and creating a new, more positive future. We, too, sense an increased energy directed toward meaningful change. We look forward to combining efforts with the Commissions for Blacks and LGBT People, as well as the Council for Diversity & Interculturalism, the Office for Diversity & Engagement, and other groups and individuals on and off campus, to contribute to this change.

There is much work to do. In unity and solidarity, let's act together now.

Joan Heminway, Incoming Co-chair

Catherine Luther, Incoming Co-chair

Chancellor's Commission for Women