

Black Lives Matter Statement

We see, we hear, and we support all Black girls, scholars, students, volunteers, and communities. Black Lives Matter. Black Girls Matter.

- We are grieving and we are outraged. All of us on the IGSA steering committee have been appalled by the racist murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and all those who have been subjected to police brutality and victimization in the US and around the world. IGSA stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.
- We acknowledge the systems that have an impact on Black, Indigenous and Brown girls, volunteers, and communities. We stand with you. We acknowledge that we have a responsibility as a collective to stand up and to do more. We recognize the need now more than ever, to create communities and programs that support black girls, scholars, and practitioners. We commit to actively foregrounding and promoting scholarship on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) girls, histories, and cultures.
- We stand against the injustices and violence committed against Black and Minority Ethnic people around the globe. We recognize the continued impact of intersecting systems of oppression like criminal justice systems, the lack of public safety, discriminatory education and healthcare, precarious food and work security, and the mediated [in]visibility that has surrounded Black and Indigenous communities since the colonial period and that has been exacerbated by COVID-19.
- As an organization dedicated to Girls Studies, we have a duty to do more. We must work collectively and collaboratively, as well as individually to ensure that IGSA is an inclusive, diverse, and safe community. We know that we have not always done this well, but we commit to making IGSA an organization that builds a community of trust, openness, and respect. We commit to calling out and rejecting structures of white supremacy and privilege, including our own. We have heard the critiques raised by our Black and Brown colleagues; we acknowledge there has been a demonstrated problem of representational parity and leadership within our own organization; and we are grateful that it has been called out. While we cannot undo the harm that we created, we commit to doing better.
- We seek to engage in conversations and action with our community, partners, and board along with the international community as part of our commitment to developing restorative and transformative practices that will be of benefit to all girls.
- Individually and collectively IGSA stands committed to do the work necessary to amplify the voices of Black girls and to dismantle racism. We believe that silence is violence. Black Lives Matter. Black Girls Matter.

ACTION POINTS

- Infusing leadership and all committees with BIPOC colleagues
- Highlighting and amplifying scholarly work from women scholars of color
- Setting up a scholarship fund for students and scholars of color when IGSA begins to collect membership fees
- Continuing to publish research on Black girls and girls of color
- Facilitating networking opportunities for BIPOC scholars, practitioners, and girls
- Calling out racist and white supremacist perspectives in this organization and in our respective communities
- Having online Symposia (free access) that focus on BIPOC scholars and Girls
- Ensuring all events have inclusive participation and scholarship