

To our graduate student, university, and broader communities,

Today we, the CGS Executive Board, join the many American voices denouncing the recent displays of hate, violence, and white supremacy that desecrated the halls of Congress and threatened the bedrock of our democracy. While the insurrection that attempted to derail our electoral process failed and the 2020 presidential results were certified, there is much work to be done to repair the trust in our democratic processes.

We acknowledge the university's statement, but must speak out further. In the wake of the tragic deaths of Casey Goodson Jr. and Andre Hill, we must make clear the stark contrast between the deference from some law enforcement that allowed the destruction of our Capitol as compared to their blatant and violent use of force against peaceful Black Lives Matter protesters speaking out for equity. We must urge lawmakers to take appropriate action to ensure our safety and condemn those who incited such attacks including President Donald J. Trump, the electoral objectors, and all those who invoked fear through sedition.

Now more than ever, it is important that we uphold CGS' motto of "Education for Citizenship". In these tumultuous times, let us all work to find understanding and meaning in the [words](#) of departed Ohio State Peace Studies Professor John Carlarne, "*We are a species that has a great capacity for violence, we are a species that has a great capacity for hate. But we are also the species that developed the idea of peace, of unity, of hope. My suggestion is this: take heart, and whenever confronted by a negative identity, whenever confronted by hate, respond with ideas, respond with hope, with peace, with justice. Only then, and hopefully eventually we'll see the kind of peaceful and just world that we all deserve.*"

In Peace,

Council of Graduate Students Executive Board

Stephen Post, President
Nick Messenger, Vice President
Sarah Light, Secretary
Raven Lynch, Treasurer
& Chairs of the CGS Executive Board