

Message from the Organization of Educational Historians Executive Board Statement on the Anniversary of the Killing of George Floyd

In the wake of the second anniversary of the George Floyd murder, our nation continues to mourn due to the insurmountable turmoil concerning academic freedom, civil rights, and social justice. The Organization of Educational Historians denounces legislation targeting academic freedom in American public schools and universities. Acts such as banning books; prohibiting discussion of race, gender, class, and other “divisive” concepts; and penalizing teachers for addressing these matters with their students are antithetical to our work as historians and teacher educators. Moreover, the Organization of Educational Historians adamantly denounces all forms of violence. The continual instances of mass murders in public places throughout the country are abhorrent. Within the last year, innocent people, among them children and BIPOC, were murdered in mass shootings at the Tops supermarket in Buffalo, New York; spas in Atlanta, Georgia; the Geneva Presbyterian Church in California; and Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. As scholars of history, we are keenly aware of the importance of freedom of speech for professors, teachers, students, and citizens as a bastion of democratic participation in civic discourse as a remedy to these forms of violence. We are committed to using evidence-based scholarship that highlights the intricacies of history, good and bad, in order to inform our present-day actions to prevent repeating and perpetuating disinformation, violence, racism, and injustices. We believe that our role in the research community is to lift the voices of marginalized and oppressed peoples through the dissemination of scholarship that encourages critical inquiry of past, present, and future processes of schooling and education. Peace be with you all.