
The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

stands in solidarity with students and community members who have been harmed by recent events on our campus that occurred over Halloween weekend. As faculty and staff, we collectively decry costumes and performances that ridicule, belittle, or demonize members of our community because of their national status, culture, or ethnic heritage. We understand such acts as ones that promote state violence and stand in fundamental contradiction to our program and purpose, and to the stated values and aspirations of the University of Richmond.

We see this particular situation as part of a broader and ongoing pattern of racism that is inconsistent with the stated values of the university's mission statement.

We follow our colleagues in the Department of History in calling upon the University and its Administrative Offices to take immediate action to address this situation and to make public their commitment to cultural and institutional change.

We strongly urge our colleagues across campus to offer a flexible, care-centered approach to attendance, tests, and assignment deadlines for students contending with the effects of racism on our campus.

We as WGSS faculty open our offices and classrooms to discussing this matter with care and an action-oriented mission toward institutional change. We join forces with our students whose collective voices have brought this matter to our attention, and with those whose lives are affected by the enduring force of racism on our campus. We urge all departments, programs, and members of our community to join in collective decial of ongoing racism in our university community.
