

This letter appeared in the Guardian on 4 June from all Heads of Colleges

Dear Sir,

The events in the US dramatise the consequences of allowing deeply embedded racist attitudes to be subject to too little challenge. Conscious and unconscious racial bias, and inaction in addressing them, remain prevalent across many institutions.

We write in a personal capacity as heads of Oxford Colleges to reassert our belief in the need to promote, protect and advance equal dignity and respect, diversity of thought, good race relations, tolerance and multi culturalism in our institutions and the world.

We acknowledge the role that education can play in building racial equality and fair inclusion of black voices and perspectives in society. We recognise and regret that, for black members of our community, the unfolding crisis together with the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on their communities has caused them particular anxiety, anger and pain.

We stand with them during these difficult moments with hope that, through the global mobilisation of many against these injustices, through education, discussion, and peaceful protest, we may work together towards a world free of systemic racism and discrimination.

Will Hutton, Hertford College

Alan Rusbridger, Lady Margaret Hall

John Bowers, Brasenose College

Sir Tim Hitchens, Wolfson College

Judith Buchanan, St Peters College

Maggie Snowling, St Johns College

Denise Lievesley, Green Templeton College

Helen Mountfield, Mansfield College

Miles Young, New College
Kathy Willis, St Edmund Hall
Lionel Tarassenko, Parks College
Neil Mendoza, Oriel College
Irene Tracey, Merton College
Michael Lloyd, Wycliffe Hall
Robert Ellis, Regent's Park College
Jonathan Michie, Kellogg College
Richard Cooper, St Benet's Hall
Nick Brown, Linacre College
Sir David Clary, Magdalen College
Robin Ward, St Stephen's House
Helen King, St Anne's College
Sir Nigel Shadbolt, Jesus College
Sir Jonathan Phillips, Keble College
Kersti Börjas, St Catherine's College
Claire Craig, Queen's College
Martyn Percy, Christ Church
Helen Moore, Corpus Christi College
Dame Lynne Brindley, Pembroke College
Carole Souter, St Cross College
David Goodill, Blackfriars Hall
Sir Gordon Duff, St Hilda's College
Jane Shaw, Harris Manchester College
Sir Rick Trainor, Exeter College
Dame Helen Ghosh, Balliol College

Sir Ivor Crewe, University College

Dame Elish Angiolini, St Hugh's College

Roger Goodman, St Antony's College

Dame Hilary Boulding, Trinity College

Kate Tunstall, Worcester College

Elizabeth Kiss, Rhodes House

Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, Somerville College

Sir John Vickers, All Souls

Sir Andrew Dilnot, Nuffield College

Nicholas Austin, Campion Hall