Statement from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee

“…But conscience asks the question - is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular; but one must take it because it is right.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King was criticized, even vilified, for leading peaceful marches. He was demeaned and called unrealistic for teaching nonviolence to those who would join him in his work and follow him as demonstrators. Yet his causes prevailed and his followers saw progress toward our finest goals of freedom, equality, and justice.

In these past few weeks, our nation has been enveloped in a state of confusion, frustration, anger and disappointment as we have witnessed the tragic events surrounding the deaths of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and Eric Garner in New York City. The incomprehensible pain that the Brown and Garner families have felt in the loss of their beloved sons has grown deeper for them and for our country, in light of the grand juries’ decisions not to administer indictments against the officers whose actions brought about their untimely deaths of these two young men.

As members of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Committee, we stand in solidarity with the many voices that support and promote social justice. In the spirit of Dr. King, we affirm the value and dignity of every individual and call upon our community at Boston College and the larger community of our sisters and brothers who seek justice and righteousness to not look away or remain complacent. Let us have the courage to follow the tenets of Dr. King in these most challenging days, so that together we can confront the very core of injustice and fear and by doing so, reconnect with one another as human beings. As educators, we support and promote social justice in all facets of our lives and believe in the responsibility of our nation and its citizens to provide justice, relying upon a social lens through which we all can see one another with compassion and equality.

We call upon the Boston College community to listen to the concerns of all its members, especially those most affected by the legal decisions, and to respond with understanding and integrity. As always we support social justice in cooperating with University regulations and policies as we move forward in supporting the greater BC community.

“…Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.