

RESOLUTION

Racially motivated violence by white police in the USA has resulted in worldwide demonstrations showing solidarity. The University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal supports this show of solidarity and has agreed on the following resolution.

The violent killing of George Floyd in the USA by a white policeman has once again made racism, police brutality and structural inequality the subject of debate also here in Germany. This case throws a spotlight on the deadly consequences of racism as well as other forms of discrimination. It follows on from numerous cases of racially motivated violence against black people and people from other minorities. The increasing number of racist and anti-Semitic crimes in Germany represent only the tip of the iceberg and make clear how virulently present racism is here in Germany too.

However, solidarity does not only mean paying lip service - solidarity doesn't come cheap. The University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal is a state educational establishment that is embedded in a predominantly white, structurally racist power structure which has developed historically. Within this context, the predominantly white members of the University have been socialized to and privileged with their positions of power.

Being aware of these privileges, and with the will to use these privileges responsibly, we see it as our duty, to self-critically consider all forms of racism – to a greater extent than we have done up until now. We will also continue to contribute to this discussion which will further affect our society and our democracy. In both teaching and research, we will actively speak up for human rights. We oppose racist and discriminatory behaviours, and will continually strive to further develop the structures within our University accordingly. A university-wide network to protect against discrimination is currently being established in order to better support a culture that is critical of racism and discrimination.

We need to continue the intensive debate surrounding this resolution.

This resolution was adopted by the Senate in a vote on June 20, 2020 with 16 votes in favor, two rejects and one abstention.