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DEPARTMENT OF AFRICANA STUDIES AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR DR. BRITTNEY COOPER

In the face of recent attacks on Dr. Brittney Cooper, we, the faculty of the department of Africana Studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, wholeheartedly support Dr. Cooper, Associate Professor of Africana Studies and Women's and Gender Studies. In pursuing scholarship that serves social justice, Dr. Cooper exemplifies the richness and diversity of Africana Studies at Rutgers and Black Studies departments around the country. We are all committed to intellectually probing scholarship as well as active engagements that work towards solving longstanding inequalities in our society. Appropriately, Dr. Cooper's scholarly and public intellectual work consistently challenges white supremacist tendencies and formations infecting most discourse in the United States and positively expands the conversation to include the realities of endemic anti-Blackness.

As a Black woman scholar who is vocal and visible, Dr. Cooper experiences disproportionate vitriol from white supremacist media outlets and their supporters. That she is being targeted and threatened with physical violence is both offensive and intolerable. The attacks on Dr. Cooper are repudiations of all forward looking anti-racist intellectual activity, including on the mission of Africana Studies, Rutgers University.

Dr. Cooper's first book, *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women* (University of Illinois Press), as well as her more recent best-seller *Eloquent Rage* (Picador), has had an indelible impact on politics and culture in the United States. In addition to her erudite scholarship, Dr. Cooper has established a significant platform as a public intellectual, a legacy that includes the Crunk Feminist Collective - a blog and network of feminist thinkers engaged with hip-hop culture, as well as publications in Time Magazine, The Cut, and MSN. The recent, orchestrated attacks on Dr. Cooper attests to her efficacy as well as the risk of violence all outspoken critics of America's racially biased discourse inevitably bear.

The fact that the right wing media frames Dr. Cooper as a source of racist violence while literally enacting violence through material threats demonstrates the real harm endured by faculty of color. We stand by Dr. Cooper and consider the attacks on her as attacks on all of us. We urge the Rutgers University administration to take swift action in its support of Dr. Cooper by condemning these attacks and continuing to ensure the safety of its faculty, students, and staff.