

## Ferguson Discussion Highlights/Summary

### Reactions and Questions?

- "Four hours on the street, four hours on the tree"; understanding historical context
- Disgust/acknowledgement of the parts we play in perpetuating what has happened ("institutionalized" and historic racism)
- Black diaspora and varying levels of "blackness" (understanding/being)
- Skin tone plays a role on global/international levels as to how people are treated and valued
- Why does responsibility fall on victims?
- Where do we put the burden of our education?
- What are future judges, prosecutors, educators being taught about privilege?
- How many black male SSW students were present at the event? How many are enrolled in the SSW?
- How do we regard black men or black lives if there is no representation of them. (e.g. are there black staff members in the SSW building?)
- Frame this as human rights, this is not just an "american civil rights" experience
- "One persons riot is anothers rebellion"
- Be aware of how tokenism increases in classrooms after events such as this, no one wants to be singled out to speak for or educate others
- Role of social media/national accessibility to information
- NASW blog  
<http://www.socialworkblog.org/advocacy/2014/08/police-shootings-underscore-need-for-social-work>
- Police education and differences in perspectives (e.g. what is profiling vs what is doing their job?)
- Awareness of how individuals are perceived. "correctness" vs all humans deserve to be treated as such without having to act a certain way
- Tension of what is considered public research and/or scholarly work

### Actions:

- Multiple actions, not just one need to be taken to counteract/heal
- The Michigan Chapter of NASW is looking for social workers throughout the state who are willing to share their insight and expertise through newsletter/blog articles, hosting forums, and presenting workshops. Interested students should contact NASW-Michigan Director of Member Services Duane Breijak at [dbreijak@nasw-michigan.org](mailto:dbreijak@nasw-michigan.org).
  - If social workers would like to get in contact with the Missouri Chapter to provide resources please contact [chapter@nasw-mo.org](mailto:chapter@nasw-mo.org).
- Run for office (local/state/national) / Vote and help others get registered to vote
- Advocate directly in your community (through community organizing and keeping the pressure on community leaders)
- Represent SSW principles at school FAPE meetings
- It is not POC responsibility to make white people aware of privilege - responsible for educating our/themselves on bias & privilege and what we/they are going to do about it
- 9/6/14 @ 2pm event: Step Out for Child Justice! <http://www.icpj.net/2014/step-out-for-child-justice/>
- Student/faculty opportunities to hold additional forums (when are we ready to invite other schools and communities into the conversation?)