

## SMC Comments Received - BLM Statement

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Thanks for sending all this. Here are my comments for the BLM statement:

- Overall, I support the document and I think everyone who worked on it did an amazing job.
- Listening over the past few weeks, from reading articles to listening to people of color, I've observed a few things that I think need to be addressed and they relate to the emotional impact of watching white people wake up to racism.
  - The constant bombardment of statements, social media posts, declarations can trigger emotional distress for people of color. Thoughts can lead to conflicting feelings, such as frustration and grief that now that white people feel it's okay, we can finally talk about race even though people of color have been trying to bring it up for a long time. This movement can feel very different for many people and to process that and move forward, everyone needs to be mindful and respectful of that.
  - I think every individual who has been on the sidelines or a played as second-string needs to ask themselves why make a statement now compared to before and this might apply to groups too? Addressing this might help reflection for other people and groups to ponder that question. Is it because white people have now acknowledged that it's okay to talk about race publicly or is it something else? And do the answers we come up with to those questions mean that we still have more work to do when it comes to listening to oppressed groups. I'm linking some articles below in case I'm not making any sense and you need more reference :)
- <https://www.npr.org/2020/06/16/878963732/why-now-white-people>
- <https://metro.co.uk/2020/06/12/emotional-impact-watching-white-people-wake-racism-real-time-12839920/?fbclid=IwAR2MCoBa8mKA2nxv5HSR1rogglhq8zfXpZdoytmaLrXDTDBadMLdT-MKjoU>