

[Black Lives Platform](#), [#DefundPolice](#), [#PoliceFreeCampus](#), and [other campaigns](#), offer a compelling moral and practical case that divesting from policing as we know it, and investing instead in people, is a necessary step toward dismantling white supremacy and creating a safer society for all of us. As organizer and scholar Ruth Wilson Gilmore says, “[when Black lives matter, everyone lives better](#).” We must heed this call.

University administrators began to expand campus police forces as a response to widespread student protest in the late 1960s and early 1970s. The growth in size and authority of campus police forces is part of a broader expansion of American law enforcement in recent decades.

Yet [campus police do little to make our campuses safer](#). In fact, [they make them less safe](#) for students, staff, faculty, and community members of color. Furthermore, [they have proven to be ineffective in](#), and often a barrier to, combatting the most common crimes on college campuses: gender-based violence, sexual assault, and rape.

Successful sexual assault prevention interventions do not rely on police: the [Enhanced Assess, Acknowledge, Act](#) program significantly reduced sexual assault and rape mythology among students at 3 Canadian universities over two years, and requires no police presence to implement. Instead, these programs work to change the culture and behavior of all who work and study on college campuses. To effectively address crimes of sexual assault, OSU should reinvest in programs that seek to change our campus culture, such as those at OSU’s Survivor Advocacy and Resource Center ([SARC](#)). While these programs require critical review to ensure that they genuinely serve our communities, especially communities of color, the evidence is clear we should invest in them rather than policing to address the most common crimes on our campus.

As faculty, we are committed to creating equitable and just working conditions by opposing racist policies and practices at our university and within the broader labor movement to which we belong. Our role as educators is to continue amplifying dialogues and evidence about how to achieve safety and justice without policing at our university and in our community.

To that end, the Organizing Committee of UAOSU, our faculty union, joins with other [labor unions](#) and [councils](#), including the [Coalition of Graduate Employees](#) at Oregon State University and the [United Academics of the University of Oregon](#), and calls on the AFL-CIO to disaffiliate police unions. The protections afforded by police unions [increase the use of force and decrease accountability](#), directly contributing to the conditions that make our campuses and communities unsafe places for Black students, faculty, and staff, and for other people of color.

Our work as faculty will not end with making this statement. Faculty members hold a number of privileges, resources, and tools, and we are obligated to use them to promote justice and oppose injustice. Our support for the demands of the [#WeCanDoTheWork](#) and [#DisarmOSU](#) campaigns is a call to action for *all of us* to create, participate in, invest in, and be accountable to a [vision of a different society](#), one grounded in dignity, care, and justice, not the racism of prisons and policing. As faculty, we can and will do this work.