



**Undergraduate Student
Government**
Statement re: Juneteenth

June 19, 2022

Huskies,

Today, the Undergraduate Student Government recognizes and celebrates Juneteenth, the oldest commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas and announced the end of slavery and the end of the Civil War. This announcement came more than two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln.

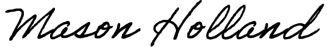
Juneteenth, symbolizing African American freedom, officially became the 11th federal holiday on June 17, 2021. In the State of Connecticut, Governor Lamont signed legislation declaring Juneteenth as a legal state holiday beginning in 2023.

A celebration of Black history, liberation, and excellence, Juneteenth represents hope. Today, we reflect on African American history and commit to fighting for a future free from racial injustice. It is not enough to not be racist. We must be actively anti-racist.

We celebrate the achievements, spirit, and resilience of the African American community and our enduring fight for racial, social, and economic justice. We join them in our advocacy for racial equity. As we continue to be confronted with hatred and oppression, we are reminded of the courage and fortitude of the ancestors who forged a path in civil rights for our communities. The challenges of police brutality, gun violence, and racism that lie before us today must and will be defeated by our generation.

We urge the UConn administration to formally recognize Juneteenth as a paid holiday for employees and a day off for students. We also urge the administration to permanently incorporate the observance of Juneteenth into the academic calendar.

The Office of Diversity is a resource for all UConn students. We are here to listen, to empower, and to support you. Please reach out to diversity@usg.uconn.edu if you would like to learn more about resources we provide, including bias reporting.

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Mason Holland
President

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Ahenkan Akuffo-Parry
Chief Diversity Officer

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Benjamin Keilty
Comptroller