



## **Department of Sociology**

University of the Witwatersrand

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26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **RE: Statement from the Sociology Department at Wits University on Professor Srila Roy's post on X (Twitter) on 19 February 2026**

The Department of Sociology at Wits University condemns in the strongest manner the offensive, racist and indefensible tweet made by our colleague, and the former Head of Department, Professor Srila Roy on 19 February 2026. The intensity of the responses to the tweet reflects the visceral pain it has caused, especially to Black South Africans. We reject the tweet and its sentiment outright and unconditionally.

The personal sentiments expressed in Professor Roy's tweet stand in direct contrast to the values of the sociology department which are built on an ethical and political commitment to care, collegiality, trust, respect, accountability, integrity, anti-racism, anti-sexism, and anti-classism. We note and reject the damaging presumption of division between South Africans and others ('foreigners') that is implied in the tweet and which serves to reproduce polarisation of our society. We reassert our long-standing and ongoing efforts to build a public African University that promotes human flourishing, whilst rejecting racism, xenophobia, sexism, classism, and all other forms of discrimination.

We as a department emphasise the need for accountability to ourselves and our wider community. We have asked Professor Roy to resign as Head of Department, which she has done. The university is addressing this matter, following its rules and procedures. As a department, we are committed to seeking justice, fairness, equity, and healing within our student community, our diverse departmental staff, the Wits University community, our wider sociological community and the greater public.