For Immediate Release

On Monday of last week (9/21/2020) the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that two Sociology professors and SSSP members, Dr. Wendy Leo Moore of Texas A&M University and Dr. James Michael Thomas of the University of Mississippi and were both being threatened with termination and/or financial penalty for their participation in #scholarstrike activities. Inspired by increased resistance to police violence against African Americans—protests that included professional athletes' work stoppages-- #scholarstrike was a national effort to raise awareness and educate students on the long history of white supremacy and policing, as well as the long struggle of African Americans and others to achieve racial equality and civil rights. These educators' actions were supported by our own organization and many other professional groups of educators around the United States and Canada. In fact, dozens of colleges and universities acknowledged their faculty's rights to such actions and even lauded their professors' efforts.

The Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems stands behind its members and calls on the President of Texas A&M University and the Chancellor of the University of Mississippi to issue statements of support for Professors Moore and Thomas respectively. We would also like to see ANY investigation or procedures related to their employment be transparent to them and the community. We believe that professors Moore and Thomas are being unfairly targeted for political reasons, and without regard for the highest principles of academic freedom and human rights, for their participation in an action designed to bring attention to social injustice.

We stand in solidarity with Dr. Wendy Leo Moore and Dr. James M. Thomas.

Sincerely,

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