



California Latinx Psychological Association

CLPA Position Statement on Black Lives and Social Justice

January 11, 2021

It has been approximately seven months since the tragic death of George Floyd. George's death was a sad and shocking reminder of the pervasive, racist, and harmful attitudes that continue to exist in our country. We have now had time to reflect and decide what actions are necessary to address these social ills. CLPA is dismayed by the long-standing devaluing of Black lives in this country. CLPA believes that anti-Black and racist sentiments that have pervaded the social fabric of our country for centuries are at the root of this problem. CLPA espouses the view that Black Lives Matter and that raising awareness about injustices committed against Black people reifies the value of all human life. While we are aware that CLPA represents a wide group of mental health professionals with differing views, we believe that the vast majority of our members believe in the right of all human beings to live a happy and productive life, free of injustice. CLPA remains committed to engaging in the continuous labor of fostering a just world for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and strives to be an anti-racist organization. Further, CLPA holds the view that position statements don't matter unless they are backed by real and sustained action. As such, these are some of the recent actions that our organization has taken to remain consistent with our belief:

1. Development of the Social Justice Response Team to model accountability, explore our own personal biases as Latinx people, and develop an agenda for real social action and change.
2. Delivering an educational platform (e.g., through webinars) of and for BIPOC mental health professionals to improve cultural humility, competence, and awareness of anti-black attitudes.
3. Raising awareness about the marginalization often faced by Afro-Latinx individuals and embracing Afro-Latinx individuals within CLPA.
3. Engaging in dialogue with community organizations, agencies and institutions, and its leaders, to assist and support their own agenda towards social justice, racial equality, and just distribution of economic resources.
4. As a start, the CLPA Social Justice Response Team has identified the following as areas where it will focus its energy and where it will strive to make a positive social impact: addressing the mental health needs of BIPOC students, promoting access to higher education for BIPOC students, addressing health disparities that adversely affect BIPOC individuals, and addressing immigration injustices facing BIPOC individuals.

We welcome our membership to engage with us in these efforts by dialoguing with us, collaborating with us, challenging us, and holding us accountable to our stated goals.

Sincerely,

The CLPA Leadership Team