

Division 31 Statement against racism and discrimination

Division 31 is greatly saddened and angered at the historically longstanding racist and discriminatory behaviors, systemic and structural racism, and racial violence perpetrated against Black people in the U.S. and the world. The unjustifiable murders of Black people at the hands of authorities and others must stop. For too long, Black people have lived under the threat of racist and discriminatory actions negatively impacting their mental and physical health. As psychologists, we have a duty and an obligation to make a stand against these acts that are detrimental to the mental and behavioral health of human beings whose rights to freedom and good health have been trampled on. Division 31 stands for the civil rights of Black people and against the social injustices they have long had to endure.

Division 31's mission is to provide advocacy for state, provincial, and territorial associations about our issues within the governance structure of APA; to facilitate communications among SPTAs their staffs and members, and to promote and recognize the activities of individual SPTAs and their representatives. Our goal is to provide useful resources, services, and benefits to individuals and SPTAs related to these missions and to be your voice for psychological association issues within APA.

Consistent with our missions and goals, we are committed to social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We do not condone, permit, or promote racist or discriminatory practices within our Division, and will stand against racism and discrimination in any form within our Division and the SPTAs with whom we collaborate and share activities. We believe in empowering Black psychologists, psychologists of color, and psychologists who share all forms of diversity, to be a partner with us in promoting the mental and behavioral health of all people.

We encourage psychologists within our Division and SPTAs to unite with us in solidarity against racism, discrimination, and intolerance and stand for social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We encourage you to engage in learning more about the mental health needs of people who have endured trauma related to racial hatred and violence and help all those who are in need of our care. We encourage you to learn more about white supremacy, white privilege, systemic racism, and ways you can work better together in understanding others. Together, we can improve the lives and physical and mental well-being of our Black brothers and sisters and our communities of color.