

MPA Statement: We Support Black Lives

There have been many recent, blatantly racist injustices brought to light over the past few months, including the murders of #GeorgeFloyd, #BreonnaTaylor, #AhmaudArbery, and countless others. These recent events are part of a pattern of generations of oppression, marginalization and endemic implicit and explicit bias toward the Black community. The institutional and structural racism, systemic inequity and dehumanization imposed onto the Black community necessitates widespread action.

Many of us have feelings of anger, frustration, hatred, sadness, grief and numerous more. How do we move forward with accumulated trauma? For those of us who are not Black, we will never truly understand the experience of individuals in the Black community and the daily experience of racism that terrorizes our Black neighbors. Moving forward requires we never forget and we affirm that #blacklivesmatter.

The Michigan Psychological Association stands in solidarity with Black Lives Matter. As a voice for psychology, the Michigan Psychological Association is reaching out to *all* psychologists in Michigan and urging both members and non-members to stand against violence and racism directed at the Black community.

It is incumbent on psychologists to deal with the harm that racism creates and to prevent further racism.

The challenges of racism are immense. However, we as psychologists can take an active role in the process of healing in our individual communities beyond our arena of healthcare. Consistent with our code of ethics, we should not be passive, but rather speak up about issues of injustice and encourage our colleagues to do the same. We should be mindful of, and sensitive to our own and others' overgeneralizations regarding behavior or groups, and allow our Black clients, patients, and colleagues the space to have their authentic feelings and reactions.

Merely hoping for change is insufficient. As psychologists, we know that beginning with even simple actions can lead to a significant impact. We as Michigan psychologists are committed to working with our local, state, and federal leaders to eliminate racism and the pain that it inflicts on ourselves, our patients, and the communities in which we practice and work.

The Michigan Psychological Association unequivocally condemns racism, bigotry, discrimination and violence. Our members are dedicated to social science and providing clinical care that promotes psychological well-being and we remain committed to diversity and equality through addressing the disparities, and the psychological impact that disparities have, on our clients, patients, colleagues, and communities.

MPA's Pledges:

We pledge to-

Listen to the Black community by reaching out to Black psychologists in Michigan.

Support Black organizations across Michigan.

Support efforts to assess and identify local needs and opportunities to improve public safety through scientifically-grounded interventions including legislative action that fosters racial fairness, harmony, and safe communities with accountability and zero tolerance for racially-biased police practices.

Provide educational platforms/resources for anti-racism learning and supporting Black trainees.

And we are just getting started. The MPA is committed to continued learning, improving and providing the psychological science needed for change. Please look out for our new, upcoming website and follow MPA on social media for additional resources and how to take action.