



Association of Asian American Social Workers

To the GCSW community,

In the wake of the cold-blooded, racist murder of George Floyd and the violent and militaristic response of President Trump and law enforcement toward protestors against police brutality, the Association of Asian American Social Workers (AAASW) is heartbroken over the suffering and violence faced by Black communities in America. We stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. In accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics, we strive to challenge social injustice rooted in systemic racism. AAASW is committed to dismantling White supremacy and pervasive systems, policies, and narratives that demean Black lives. In recognition of how White supremacy affects all minorities and causes interlocking oppressions, we urge our supporters, and all members of the community, to participate in the Black Lives Matter movement with meaningful actions.

It is imperative that we listen to Black people's lived experiences so that we better understand the historical and social contexts within which Black people face racial injustice in America. For too long, we have been aware of racial discrimination but have not actively sought out Black writers, activists, artists, musicians, filmmakers, etc. Now is the time to listen to Black voices. Being willing to listen allows us to challenge our biases and further our understanding and growth. Only then can we be effective allies capable of working together toward lasting change. You can reference the Black Lives Matter Allyship Reference List [here](#) as a starting point.

Please be careful on social media. While social media is an excellent platform for activism, there is also plenty of misinformation being spread along with calls to performative allyship. We ask that you fact check and consider the impact you will be making before posting and sharing. Listen to leaders of the Black Lives Matter movement and follow the guidance of Black activists.

Have anti-racist conversations with friends and family members. For our fellow Asians, this can be a difficult undertaking as we struggle with anti-Blackness in our own communities. [Here](#) are resources that can guide you on how to engage in open and honest conversations regarding racial justice while taking into account cultural differences in Asian communities.

Perhaps the most important way to be an ally is by voting. We cannot stand idly by as our local, state, and national leaders incite hatred and violence and keep Americans divided. We are in desperate need of leaders who will listen to the plight of Black individuals, families, and

communities, hold law enforcement accountable for police brutality, and unify our local communities and the country. Research candidates at all levels of government and head to the voting booth at every opportunity. We must come together and vote out leaders who do not support the lives and wellbeing of our Black fellow citizens.

We hope you all are safe and well, especially during this pandemic. We welcome any questions or comments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

The Association of Asian American Social Workers
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