



SAIGE Position Statement: Police Brutality & Systemic Racism

The Society for Sexual, Affectional, Intersex, and Gender Expansive Identities (SAIGE) first and foremost acknowledges the lives lost to police brutality. We lift up the families, friends, and communities grappling with these losses in honor and solidarity.

The recent murder of George Floyd highlights what has for too long been a reality in our country: a culture of white supremacy. George Floyd's murder was not the result of one bad officer; it was the predictable outcome of a racist and prejudiced system that was built to be and remains oppressive. George Floyd's murder is just one of the incalculable acts of murder, marginalization, and repression experienced by our black and brown siblings since the first enslaved persons arrived on this continent. George Floyd is one of the names we know, one of the atrocities we saw or heard about. We have also seen or heard about the losses of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Oscar Grant, Muhlaysia Booker, Eric Garner, Tanisha Anderson, Trayvon Martin, Malissa Williams, Michael Brown, Sandra Bland, Emmett Till, Martin Luther King, Jr., and yet there are far more we do not know.

For too long, systems of oppression and marginalization have been in place. George Floyd's murder has brought forward a collective voice, communities feeling sorrow and outrage, and we are standing on the precipice of change. As we march, stand, chant, donate, write, and teach in protest, we are faced with brutality in the streets, online, and in discourse. The violent response to protestors highlights the desperate need for change. We are here, this is the time to call for systemic changes. We need federal, state, and local reforms which impose strict police accountability, limit the use of force, eliminate racial profiling, de-militarize law enforcement, and ensure proper screening, education, and training of all officers.

And we each have a role in this. To be silent is to be complicit. We are committed to raising our voices, donating our time, decolonizing our counseling and teaching spaces. We are committed to doing the work of racial healing, of broaching the conversation, holding space, receiving feedback, and learning from it. We are committed to carrying on this conversation as long as it takes to bring about substantive change.

Black Lives Matter.

Here are the actions that SAIGE is taking in this effort.

- 1) We have joined with CSJ to provide an inclusive space of mourning called I Need a Minute offered on 6/8/20.
- 2) We are joining with CSJ to offer a town hall – described below.

CSJ, AMCD & SAIGE Town Hall: Racial Trauma and the Violent and Negligent Policing of Black Americans – Friday, June 19th from 11am-1pm EST. Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83737865847?pwd=MjFGNllaaZFWbGJaZ2FZSjQ4U29BUT09>

In response to recent and continued police violence toward Black Americans, CSJ, AMCD and SAIGE is holding a Town Hall event to allow ACA chapters and members to share how they are addressing this violence, call one another to action and discuss how we can all advocate at the individual, community and larger societal levels, remember and celebrate Juneteenth, and hold an open forum for people to speak and be heard. Please see the attached flyer. If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Committee at membership@counseling-csj.org.

- 3) We offered a space for Queer and Trans People of Color to come together for solace and healing. The information is included below.

SAIGE (formerly ALGBTIC) Professional Trustee for Multicultural and Social Justice Concerns hosted a Queer and Trans People of Color Gathering on Tuesday, June 16th 2020 5pm-7pm EST. This was designed to be a safe and inclusive space for QTPOC.

- 4) Finally, we ask that all of our members join us in doing the work – personally and collectively of racial healing. Read, watch, and listen to see how these value messages about others have been ingrained into our psyche – actively work to dismantle these biases. Donate to Black and Brown causes and contact your elected representatives to use your voice to condemn racism in our police, judicial, and political systems and ask for reform. Tell them you support HR 40 – Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act.

To Read:

“So You Want To Talk About Race” by Ijeoma Oluo.
“How to Be an Antiracist” by Ibram X Kendi.
“Me and White Supremacy” by Layla Saad.
“The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander.
“White Tears, Brown Scars” by Ruby Hamad.

To Watch:

13th
When They See Us
Just Mercy
Strong Island
Teach Us All
Dear White People
The Hate You Give

To Listen:

NPR Code Switch
The Diversity Gap
1619
Intersectionality Matters
About Race
No Country For Young Women
Say Your Mind
Slay In Your Lane
Witness Black History

To Donate (non-comprehensive list):

[The Black Lives Matter Movement](#)

The BLM movement, founded in 2013 after George Zimmerman was acquitted of all charges in the killing of Trayvon Martin, is a multinational organization that combats white supremacy through demonstrations, petitions, and online organizing. You can donate [here](#).

[Reclaim the Block](#)

Reclaim the Block organizes the Minneapolis community and council members to move funds from the hands of the police to other areas covered by the city's budget. "We organize around policies that strengthen community-led safety initiatives and reduce reliance on police departments," the organization says in its mission statement. You can donate [here](#) to help those on the field protesting.

[BEAM](#)

BEAM is an organization working to "remove the barriers that Black people experience getting access to or staying connected with emotional health care and healing," according to its mission statement. Support programs that address mental health and healing in Black communities with a one-time donation [here](#), or a monthly contribution [here](#).

[The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund \(LDF\)](#)

The LDF has fought racial injustice through litigation, advocacy, and public education for over 75 years. Support the organization's continued battle to improve our judicial system [here](#).

[The National Association of Black Journalists](#)

Help support Black journalists and media professions by donating to America's largest group for journalists of color. The organization promotes media diversity and supports workers who have been laid off or struggle to find employment.

To Contact

Contact your elected representatives: <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>