

ISPP Statement Against Racism

The International Society of Political Psychology acknowledges the persistence of racism in all its forms, and condemns the injustices associated with it in the strongest terms. As an organization, we stand with all those who struggle against it. In this moment we support those who are protesting police brutality against Black people and other minorities in America, while recognizing racism is not only a problem there. As part of its core mission, ISPP strives not only to scientifically understand racism and other forms of intergroup oppression, but to discover and promote ways of challenging intergroup oppression in accordance with principles of universal human rights. In this spirit, we are strongly committed to the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, both within ISPP and in the world at large.

Though ISPP is formally a non-partisan organization, it does take positions on public issues when those positions are directly relevant to the purposes of the Society. Our condemnation of racism in all its forms falls into this category. Racism directly hurts the well-being of our membership and impedes communication and respect among scholars and between scholars and the students and publics we serve. The continued existence of racism challenges ISPP to more strongly actualize its commitment to racial equity. Indeed, ISPP, like many organizations, has not always succeeded in this regard—for example, in the representation of people of color in its top leadership or in the range of people it has honored for their achievements.

Moving forward, we pledge to redouble our efforts to confront inequity, both within our own organization and in the world. To this end, we are taking several concrete steps. This year's Presidential Address has been converted to an invited Presidential Symposium on "Racism and its Continued Role in our Politics Around the World." We are fortunate to feature four experts working at the intersection of Black politics and political psychology in this symposium on 14 July 2020 at 9am-10am EDT. In addition, we will continue the ongoing discussion of structural racism and its role in our institutions, including policing, prisons, and the courts, at future meetings. Lastly, the leadership of ISPP will immediately make a donation to fund at least one young scholar in the coming year who is working on problems of racism in criminal justice to attend our future meetings, and we hope to make this a recurring scholarship. We welcome suggestions from members for other initiatives to help contribute to greater equity in our organization and in society at large: [info@ispp.org]