



North American Association of Christians in Social Work

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## NACSW Statement on Racism

The North American Association of Christians in Social Work is committed to reconciliation and the healing of brokenness whether on an individual or community level. We take seriously the biblical directive to seek Shalom (Jer. 29:7), the peace and well-being of society. We embrace St. Paul's instruction to "humbly consider others better than ourselves" (Phil. 2:3). Mirroring these biblical injunctions, our ethical code calls social workers to enhance human well-being of all people from the individual to society and to end discrimination, oppression, and other forms of social injustice, and to do so from a position of service that recognizes the dignity and worth of all people.

The long-standing fissures and divisions surrounding race and ethnicity have existed in North America for centuries. However, in recent years, we have increasingly witnessed the covert and overt reiteration of historic racism in private and public spaces. These societal ills, which often go unacknowledged publicly in some communities, reveal the lack of Shalom, cultural regard, and personal humility required to repair the societal wrongs that continue to plague our fellow citizens of color. While social workers are uniquely equipped to envision and implement social change, bringing healing and hope to hurting people and broken places, we cannot do so before acknowledging the depth and severity of the wounds inflicted upon our brothers and sisters. Repentance precedes renewal.

Therefore, NACSW acknowledges the pain of our fellow social workers of color. We admit that we have failed to actively address this pain both directly via our superiority and paternalism and indirectly via our participation in North America's racial project of classification, distinction, separation, and subjugation. We call upon Christian social workers throughout North America to join us as we seek to rectify past injustices by humbly learning from our fellow social workers of color how to adequately love and serve them. We vow to create an association where all Christians in social work feel welcome, where all voices matter, where healing begins and from which Shalom extends to our world.

*Adopted by NACSW's Board of Directors on 11/5/2020*