



INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE AND APPAREL ASSOCIATION

A Global Organization of Textile and Apparel Scholars

ITAA Statement of Affirmation of Black Lives Matter  
8 June 2020

The International Textile and Apparel Association, as an organization, recognizes the existence of systemic racism. We denounce the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and others killed in the same manner. We recognize the pain and suffering that the members in our Black community are experiencing currently.

We believe that people must be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin (reference: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.). As leaders in educational institutions, we have the responsibility to acknowledge this injustice and advocate for change. As an international organization, we express support for Black people and others around the world who choose to protest and/or support protests both locally and globally. We encourage our members and others to lend their support to correcting injustice.

Our vision as promoters of discovery, dissemination, and application of knowledge requires us to act. As a primary resource for our members in strengthening leadership and service to society, we affirm that Black Lives Matter. We are committed to increase diversity and inclusivity in all we do, including research, education, and outreach/service – and resources for such - in the textiles and apparel programs represented by our members.

As educators and researchers, our members, and others, are encouraged to educate ourselves on the topic of racism and actively seek how to be effective anti-racism advocates. We offer the following suggested resource list:

FREE eCOURSE:

- *Free Racialized Trauma 5-day eCourse* by Resmaa Menakem

BOOKS:

- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X and Alex Haley
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *The Color of Money: Black Banks and the Racial Wealth Gap* by Mehrsa Baradan
- *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* by Linda Tuhiwai Smith
- *Essays and Speeches* by Audre Lorde
- *Finding our Stories, Discovering Ourselves* Edited by Glory Edim
- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

#### BOOKS (Continued):

- *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race* by Jesmyn Ward
- *Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement* by Angela Davis
- *How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-First Century* by Dorothy Roberts
- *How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland* by Jonathan M. Metz
- *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul* by Tanisha C. Ford
- *My Grandmothers Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies* by Resmaa Menakem
- *On Intellectual Activism* by Patricia Hill Collins
- *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo
- *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi
- *We Want to do More than Survive* by Bettina Love
- *White Fragility* by Robin J. DiAngelo

#### BOOKS: Teaching and Research related

- *Methodology of the Oppressed* by Chela Sandoval
- *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Freire
- *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope* by bell hooks
- *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom* by bell hooks

#### JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Gildersleeve, R. E., Croom, N. N., & Vasquez, P. L. (2011). "Am I going crazy?!": A critical race analysis of doctoral education. *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 44(1), 93-114.

Hofstra, B., Kulkarni, V. V., Galvez, S. M. N., He, B., Jurafsky, D., & McFarland, D. A. (2020). The diversity–innovation paradox in science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(17), 9284-9291.

Patton, L. D. (2009). My sister's keeper: A qualitative examination of mentoring experiences among African American women in graduate and professional schools. *The Journal of Higher Education*, 80(5), 510-537.

Perez, R. J., Harris Jr., W., Robbins, C. K., & Montgomery, C. (2019). Graduate students' agency and resistance after oppressive experiences. *Studies in Graduate and Postdoctoral Education*, 11(1), 57-71.

Slay, K. E., Reyes, K. A., & Posselt, J. R. (2019). Bait and switch: Representation, climate, and tensions of diversity work in graduate education. *The Review of Higher Education*, 42(5), 255-286.

Truong, K., & Museus, S. (2012). Responding to racism and racial trauma in doctoral study: An inventory for coping and mediating relationships. *Harvard Educational Review*, 82(2), 226-254.

PODCAST

[Notice the Rage, Notice the Silence](#)

We hope that our members can leverage the anger, grief, and sense of helplessness as fuel to create a better future for our communities and society. We are also planning for the actions that we can take together to change. We are continuing to listen to all of our constituents – we hope that you will reach out to us if you have any ideas on how to make this organization, the industry and our country a better place for all of us.

*ITAA Council Members wish to recognize and thank ITAA colleague Dr. Olivia Johnson, Assistant Professor at the University of Houston, for her excellent contributions to this statement.*

In support of Black lives,  
ITAA Executive Council