

# New Mexico Psychological Association: Official Statement Concerning Racially Targeted Acts of Police Brutality

June 5, 2020

Members of the New Mexico Psychological Association (NMPA) watched the death of George Floyd as he succumbed under the weight of a police officer's knee with horror and heartache. This travesty adds to a long series of public examples of brutality against persons of color, with others remaining unreported and unknown. Communities have endured historical racism and the Covid-19 pandemic; now the actions of some who choose to riot has resulted in more destruction, injury, and loss of life. New wounds reignite and compound the old, further increasing strife and division. The pain of fractured communities is stark, as are the potential psychological and health impacts which include increased rates of posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, hypertension, and a host of other conditions that cause quality of life to decline among those exposed to chronic racism.

NMPA unequivocally condemns police brutality in all forms as well as structural and informal supports that allow it to continue. We also denounce the actions of those using these tragic events to perpetrate further violence and destruction. We unite with individuals, faith communities, protestors, and members of law enforcement who decry these acts and work to dismantle them. The continued challenges that face us are not hypothetical, not neutral, not something that happens to "others." They are deeply personal and happening to us, in our neighborhoods and homes. Powerful factors like race and gender affect how individuals are impacted and leave Black and Brown communities with an inordinate burden. However, no one is left untouched, and we must all answer the call to action.

Psychologists are a professional guild explicitly committed to ethical principles including beneficence and non-maleficence, justice, and respect for individuals' and groups' rights and dignity. NMPA is committed to works that use our professional expertise to channel anguish and outrage into meaningful, effective outreach and interventions. We now answer the mandate to speak and act against oppression in all forms, and toward interventions to help alleviate suffering of individuals and communities.

As a profession, psychologists can and will do more by increased attention to educating, researching bias and debiasing strategies, recruiting people of color to the profession and collecting anti-racism resources. We are committed to contribute to the process of ending discrimination and intolerance.