



Ohio Psychological Association: Official Statement

Ohio Psychological Association's Response to the Charlottesville Riots

August 31, 2017

Written by: Ohio Psychological Association Board of Directors

As an organization and community of psychologists, OPA is consistently engaged in efforts to represent diverse populations and therefore, vehemently condemns the racism, bigotry, anti-Semitism, homophobia and hatred that led to the unfortunate loss of lives and injuries during riots sparked by white-supremacist groups in Charlottesville VA recently.

OPA embraces the ethical responsibility of psychologists to uphold values of justice and equality for all citizens that we serve. We are committed to joining with our elected officials, community leaders, and other healthcare professionals in defense of the many marginalized populations affected by these unfortunate events.

Commitment to advocacy, diversity, and promotion of collaboration are at the core values of OPA. It is our mission as an organization and responsibility as psychologists to promote social justice and refuge for the most vulnerable members of society and to educate the public about the harmful effects of hatred and bigotry. It is because of these values, that we remind our members and our community the importance of standing-up to and speaking out against racism and hatred. Psychologists also provide services to those who are victim to these and similar experiences, as well as those who may wish to develop new viewpoints and develop understanding of oppressed groups. We are trained with scientific knowledge of how hatred impacts the psychological well-being of the family and community systems. OPA strives to maintain this position and support the community in achieving ongoing progress.