



ACJS Statement on Injustices Against Communities of Color: A Call to Action

The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences promotes criminal justice education, research, and policy analysis for educators, students, and practitioners. In that light, we join much of the nation in condemning the deplorable actions that led to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, among too many others. We oppose injustice against all people in all forms; every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

The current situation represents a systemic failure to address disparities within the criminal justice system and across our country. We believe that large-scale policy reforms, informed by rigorous empirical research, are needed to prevent future injustices. We are also committed to conducting evidenced-based research that brings best practices to the foreground and leverages our partnerships with practitioners across the country to help translate that research into real-world change.

The last few weeks have been a time of heart-breaking pain for our nation, and particularly for communities of color. We must do more than research these communities from a distance; we need to join with them in order to find solutions to enduring and avoidable problems. We also acknowledge the vicarious trauma and racial/ethnic battle fatigue that many communities of color experience after each senseless death.

This is a call to action for our colleagues across the discipline. We encourage our members, affiliates, and supporters to conduct research that helps solve the problems that lead to disparity and discrimination in treatment by law enforcement and other criminal justice officials. It is imperative that we conduct research, teach, train, and live our lives with a level of empathy that will help prevent future loss of life and injustice in all its forms.

- ACJS Executive Board