



June 3, 2020

Comprised of healthcare professionals who are dedicated to providing trauma-informed, patient-centered care to victims of violence, the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN) condemns discrimination, racism, and violence in all its forms.

Recent and historical acts of lethal, race-based police brutality—both publicized and not—lay bare that racism is a persistent public health threat to the safety, lives, and well-being of the individuals and communities that experience it. Racism has been classified a social determinant of health with short- and long-term mental, emotional, and physical implications.

Condemnation alone, however, is not enough. To eradicate racism, we must commit to actionable change. In doing so, we must also understand the truth about White privilege, and commit to identifying, acknowledging, and working to end it. This work begins with recognition of our shared humanity and of our professional duty to serve as patient advocates. The eradication of systemic, structural, and institutionalized racism and discrimination in all its forms will require the united effort and actions of all forensic healthcare professionals.

In the coming weeks and months, we will strive to develop and implement opportunities that move us toward this pursuit of justice. In the interim, the members of IAFN commit to:

- Stand with Black communities in solidarity and unity;
- Examine and identify any gaps in both our understanding and our response to race-related violence toward our patients, within our profession, and with and amongst our community partners;
- Strategize ways to increase the diversity of our membership and our leadership to better represent the populations we serve;
- Educate our fellow members, Board, and staff by actively seeking opportunities to listen, learn, and work collaboratively with diverse populations and organizations; and
- Advocate for a forensic nursing response that ensures the safety of victims who seek care for race-related and other forms of violence.

As nurses and other healthcare professionals, we respect and honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

As the leading organization dedicated to the forensic nursing response to violence, we ask our members and our partners to join us in serving as agents of change.