



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN DANCE (IABD)**  
**CONDEMNS ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

Recent allegations of gross sexual misconduct within the dance community have been brought to the attention of IABD, and as leaders in this community, we want to make it clear that we denounce any and all forms of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or assault.

It has long been the policy and one of the driving principals of IABD that sexual misconduct of any kind is abhorrent and unacceptable behavior within the dance community. Just as we do not condone discrimination based on sexual orientation, we do not condone sexual harassment or sexual abuse of any kind by anyone. Any allegation of harassment, discrimination or abuse is taken very seriously, and we take swift and appropriate action in response to them.

We believe that a vibrant dance community should be a place of inclusion where everyone is treated fairly and with respect. We seek to create a culture where everyone feels safe, is valued and can be who they are. When the physical and/or emotional safety of any one in our community is threatened through abuses of power, harassment or assault, we all suffer.

IABD has instituted a [Code of Conduct](#) for our Annual International Conference and Festival, and programmatic activities, policies and procedures for our employees because we are dedicated to providing a safe and harassment free environment for everyone.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF IABD**

If you would like more information about this topic, or to speak with the President/CEO of IABD, please contact Denise Saunders Thompson at 301-755-0831 or via email at [contact@iabdassociation.org](mailto:contact@iabdassociation.org).