



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Dear Colleagues,

These are challenging and difficult times. As healthcare workers and communities are joining forces to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also faced with shattering social injustice and discrimination in the United States. Nurses are called to care for others, to ease discomfort, and advocate for the safety, and equitable treatment of all. We, as nurses, are all obligated to uphold the American Nurses Association (ANA) code of ethics; to be allies and advocates for all peoples regardless of skin color, gender, ethnic origin or religious beliefs. This is a mandatory obligation that must be upheld at all times. The recent senseless deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and others are heartbreaking and unacceptable. The paramount issue of ensuring safety, equality and justice for all citizens is one for which we must all advocate. Bigotry in any form is very ugly, and is in conflict with our nation's founding beliefs, values, and constitution.

ASPAN supports and endorses ANA President Dr. Ernest Grant's recent statement: *Condemning Racism, Brutality and Senseless Violence Against Black Communities*.¹

The ASPAN condemns bigotry and discrimination in any form. It is through our diversity that we are strong. It is through love, understanding, and kindness that we are effective. ASPAN is committed to inclusiveness, honoring, celebrating, and embracing our beautiful differences!

Nurses must commit to and advocate for efforts that ensure equality, justice, and protection of all, especially our most vulnerable populations. Nurse leaders across the nation are called to strengthen the efforts that address racism, discrimination and protect basic human rights. We, as nurses, are almost 3 million strong in the United States. We are a huge presence and should be active in addressing these inequities, health disparities and injustices.² Together we can lend our voices and advocacy to ensure equity and justice, and call for an end to discrimination and bigotry.

Sincerely

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References

1. ANA president condemns racism, brutality and senseless violence against black communities [news release]. Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association website; June 1, 2020. <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2020/ana-president-condemns-racism-brutality-and-senseless-violence-against-black-communities/>. Accessed June 6, 2020.
2. Number of registered nurses in the U.S. since 2001. Statista.com website. Published November 6, 2019. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/185734/number-of-registered-nurses-in-the-us-since-2001/>. Accessed June 6, 2020.