

### Library Statements Against Racism

During this difficult time, many libraries have issued statements reaffirming their commitment to equality for all and explicitly stating that they are against racism. After discussing this with Sue last week, I posted a very succinct statement on the website from me and the staff. I have included a link below from Library Journal where they are collecting statements from libraries and organizations. We will discuss at the meeting.

<https://www.infodocket.com/2020/06/01/statements-from-library-organizations-re-racism-and-increased-violence/>

Dear Rotarians in District 6450,

The last three weeks have been remarkable, and we have seen unprecedented levels of protesting against violence suffered by African Americans at the hands of the police.

Rotary is non-political, and we do not take sides in a political debate. We do state our opinions on matters of health, peace and education, even when they become intertwined with politics. For example, we push for vaccinations for polio, even when vaccination itself can be a political issue. Now, we cannot sit silently where injustice exists, and where People of Action can make a difference.

The District is here to support our Clubs, and to provide a connection between the Clubs and Rotary International. In support of your efforts, I want to share my thoughts on the matter of Rotary and Social Justice in light of current events. In composing this message, I felt it was vital that we, as Rotarians who value and promote peace, discuss what is happening and our role to play as we approach the start of a new Rotary year.

Please click the link below to open the message. It is a bit lengthy, but there is much we need to discuss. I hope all of you receive this message in the Rotarian spirit that is intended.

I welcome continued discussion.

Chuck

Chuck Corrigan

District Governor 2020-21

# ALAnews

(/news/)

## ALA statement condemning police violence against BIPOC, protesters and journalists

For Immediate Release

Thu, 06/11/2020

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CHICAGO — The American Library Association is deeply saddened by the death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, as well as the killings by police or vigilantes of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, and far too many others. We are in solidarity with the statements of BCALA and APALA, and affirm our earlier statement condemning violence and racism towards Black people, Indigenous people and all people of color.<sup>1 2 3</sup>

We recognize "that institutionalized inequities based on race are embedded into our society and are reinforced through social institutions,"<sup>4</sup> and we condemn the systemic racism and violence that Black, Indigenous, and People of Color experience on a daily basis in our inequitable society.

We also condemn the violence that protesters and journalists across the country are facing while exercising their First Amendment rights.<sup>5</sup> The former raise their voices to demand justice; the latter seek to document and share history as it is being made. Both have been subject to gratuitous attacks from police. The First Amendment promises freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government, all of which are essential freedoms of our democracy and vital components of intellectual freedom.

ALA has long sought to safeguard the rights of library users, libraries, and librarians, in accordance with the first amendment to the United States Constitution, and ALA has pledged to "[s]upport anti-racism work within the broader society by monitoring, evaluating and advocating for human rights and equity legislation, regulations, policy and practice."<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, as stated in "The Universal Right to Free Expression: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights," ALA "opposes any use of governmental prerogative that leads to intimidation of individuals that prevents them from exercising their rights to hold opinions without interference, and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas. We urge libraries and librarians everywhere to resist such abuse of governmental power, and to support those against whom such governmental power has been employed."<sup>7</sup>

As such, ALA calls upon its members to support initiatives to end police violence against Black people, to combat the systemic racism that infects our society, and to speak out against all attempts to restrict First Amendment rights. ALA further calls upon federal, state, and local governments to uphold, preserve, and respect the constitutional rights of protesters, of journalists, and of all people who want to make their voices heard and to share their words and ideas with the rest of the world and future generations.

*Approved by the ALA Executive Board June 9, 2020.*

*Original Statement drafted and approved by ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee.*

*Endorsed by the Social Responsibilities Roundtable.*

1. ["Statement Condemning Increased Violence and Racism Towards Black Americans and People of Color," (<https://www.bcala.org/statement-condemning-increased-violence-and-racism-towards-black-americans-and-people-of-color>) Black Caucus of The American Library Association, May 28, 2020]↵

2. ["APALA stands with BCALA and Black Lives Matter," (<https://www.apalaweb.org/apala-stands-with-bcala-and-blm/>) Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, June 1, 2020]↵


3. ["ALA Executive Board stands with BCALA in condemning violence and racism towards Black people and all People of Color," (<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2020/06/ala-executive-board-stands-bcala-condemning-violence-and-racism-towards-0>) American Library Association, June 1, 2020]↵

(<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/3diversity#B.3.2>) (Old Number 60.2))↔

5. [The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, produced by the U.S. Press Freedom of the Press Foundation has tracked over 300 incidents of violence, arrest and destruction of equipment against journalists covering protests <https://pressfreedomtracker.us/george-floyd-protests/> (<https://pressfreedomtracker.us/george-floyd-protests/>) (retrieved on June 10, 2020)] ↔

6. [ALA Policy Manual, B.3.3 Combating Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination (<http://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual/updatedpolicymanual/section2/3diversity#B.3.3>) (Old Number 60.3))↔

7. [ALA Policy Manual, The Universal Right to Free Expression: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/universalright>), adopted January 16, 1991, by the ALA Council; amended July 1, 2014] ↔

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