

June 4, 2020

Statement on Racism and Violence

The British Columbia Association of Social Workers unequivocally condemns the recent and historic violence against people of colour in the United States of America and at home in Canada.

The recent death of George Floyd in Minnesota reminds all social workers of our responsibility to advocate for social justice in all its many forms. We must raise critical awareness of racism and all forms of discrimination and work for change in our personal and professional lives.

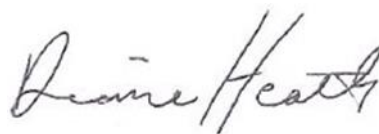
Our Association calls for the reform of law enforcement "use of force" policies to ensure the minimum force necessary is used and that non-violent intervention methods be taught, employed, and enforced.

Law enforcement agencies must make certain that their officers will not engage in racist behaviour or practices. They must revise policies and procedures to guarantee equitable treatment of all people, and reform institutional processes that establish and reinforce racism and the excessive use of violence.

We call on political, religious, community, and institutional leaders to call for peaceful protest and to work together to ensure an equitable society for all.



Michael Crawford, President
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Dianne Heath, Executive Director
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