

OTAC Statement on Racial Justice

The Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) recognizes that many of our practitioners, students and consumers are experiencing feelings of anger, sadness, frustration and fear related to the senseless and tragic act of inhumanity in the death of George Floyd and many other people of color. OTAC recognizes and supports the peaceful protests to call out the racial injustices within our society. We know that California is comprised of a diverse population and we all benefit from embracing this diversity.

OTAC is committed to partnering with the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and other stakeholder groups in eradicating systemic racism. The AOTA recently released the linked statement that aligns with OTAC's core values:

<https://www.aota.org/Publications-News/AOTANews/2020/AOTA-Statement-On-Systemic-Racism.aspx>

Additionally, OTAC wants to recognize the work that has already been undertaken by many organizations including the National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus (NBOTC) and the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD), and recommends that practitioners and students who are working through their own thoughts and emotions on the impacts of racism utilize NBOTC and COTAD as resources: www.nbotc.org; www.cotad.org.

Racial justice is occupational justice. We recognize that OTAC can do better for our communities of color. OTAC commits to listening to our Black members, to supporting the actions of our Black members, and to building a space that affirms Black people through occupational justice and engagement.