



Statement Against-Racism and Inequity

05 June 2020

The International Council of Psychologists (ICP) stands strong with the world community against racism, inequity, and social injustice.

The death of Mr. George Floyd at the hands of the police in Minneapolis, USA has sparked worldwide protests where people of all walks of life are united in expressing their grievous pain and outrage. The demonstrators in the USA are exercising their democratic right to be heard and to demand criminal justice and institutional reforms that would make the country safer and more equal for all.

Racism and discrimination have been around for a very long time not only in the USA but around the world. Inequity is reflected in systems that favour one group above others. It is reflected in opportunities and privileges that are available to some segments of the population and denied to others. In the current global pandemic, it is seen in the disproportional burden of illness in ethnic minorities and disenfranchised groups.

The ICP believes that much greater effort must be made to address racism. The roots of racial inequity have to be recognized. This means acknowledging historical injustices against marginalized groups and becoming educated and aware about how these injustices are perpetuated today through the political, social, legal, financial, and educational structures of societies. Leaders and organizations can actively promote social equality by ensuring that their policies *and actions* guarantee equal opportunities for all groups; and respect fundamental rights and human rights principles. At a personal level, each of us needs to explore our own explicit and implicit stereotypes and reflect on how these are expressed in action or inaction. We need to be willing to challenge our views, be open to learning together from each other, and treat everyone with respect, understanding and empathy.

The ICP is an international association committed to human rights and social justice. We believe that all voices need to be heard. We encourage speaking out against injustice and being mindful of the needs of the vulnerable. We welcome others to join in a collective effort to speak with a common voice and work toward a common objective to create a just future for all.