



June 4, 2020

Our nation has been faced with the horrible murder of George Floyd; this is a reprehensible act of racism and social injustice. The history in our nation continues to fuel hatred and acts of violence against people of color, especially Black individuals, and communities. The horrific events that have occurred over the past days, months and years produce trauma, loss, grief, and anger.

Many of us will never experience what so many Black, indigenous, and people of color are going through, and we may never fully understand the heavy weight of racism. However, we empathize with those who endure it daily, acknowledge their pain and hurt, and vow to take action. Actions must replace words and actions must leave no doubt where we stand. No citizen of conscience can condone violence or oppression in any form. We cannot accept this in our country, our institutions, our organizations, or, most importantly, in our hearts.

The Association for Athletic Training Education (AATE) was born from our love of our profession and is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. As educators and health care providers, we are in a unique position to build diverse programs and prepare future professionals who reflect our dedication to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. A fundamental tenet of the AATE is to bring people together in community to work for a common cause. To be a true community we must stand in absolute solidarity with Black, indigenous, and people of color and use our education and privilege to fight for equity within each and every one of our systems.

The AATE encourages our member institutions to act by examining our programs and addressing barriers to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. As an organization we are creating a standing committee to establish explicit expectations pertaining to diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice, and our board will ensure that these efforts are reflected in our organizational actions and core values. Lastly, we call on the individuals in our community to take one action today to make this world a better place for a person of color who needs to feel love, compassion, and safety.

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