

Position Statement on Bias-Related Incidents

Revised by the Board of Trustees, December 2015
Retained by the Board of Trustees, 2007
Revised by the Assembly, November 2015
Retained by the Assembly, 2007

"Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . ." – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

Bias-related incidents arise from discrimination and intolerance based on race/ethnicity, color, gender, age, religion/spirituality, places of birth and growing up, migrant status, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental illness or disabilities, and veteran status among other characteristics. Biases, both intentional/explicit/conscious and unintentional/implicit/unconscious, underlie these incidents that are widespread in society and continue to be a source of social disruption, individual suffering, trauma, and health and mental health inequities. These bias-related incidents, occurring in both urban and rural areas, consist of acts of violence, harassment, intimidation, and microaggressions based on stereotypes that devalue the human dignity of stigmatized individuals, families, and communities. These bias-related incidents result in despair and hopelessness that undermine the mental health and well-being of affected individuals and ultimately affects the whole nation.

APA Position:

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) opposes bias-related incidents. We recognize that these incidents occur in our nation's communities, institutions, organizations and throughout all levels of society. The APA encourages its members to take appropriate actions to prevent such incidents as well as actively respond when such bias-related incidents occur.