

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on the Prevention of Violence

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2017

Approved by the Assembly, November 2017

“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:

Psychiatry has a public health role related to the prevention of violence. The prevention/reduction of abuse, trauma and violence and sophisticated approaches to intervention are part of the mission of the profession.

The psychiatrist must take a leadership role in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of victims and perpetrators of violence.

Position:

The APA should support primary, secondary and tertiary approaches to the prevention of violence and should advocate for the education of trainees and practicing psychiatrists about violence prevention.