

## APA Official Actions

# Joint Resolution Against Torture of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association

Approved by the Board of Trustees, December 2019  
Approved by the Assembly, November 2019  
Reaffirmed by the Board, December 2014  
Reaffirmed by the Assembly, November 2014  
Reaffirmed, 2007  
Approved 1985

“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*

### APA Position:

**Whereas, American psychiatrists are bound by their *Principles of Medical Ethics with Annotations Especially Applicable to Psychiatry* to “provide competent medical service with compassion and respect for human dignity,” and**

**Whereas, American psychologists are bound by their Ethical Principles to “respect the dignity and worth of the individual and strive for the preservation and protection of fundamental human rights,” and**

**Whereas, the existence of state-sponsored torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment has been documented in many nations around the world, and**

**Whereas, psychological knowledge and techniques may be used to design and carry out torture, and**

**Whereas, torture victims often suffer from multiple, long- term psychological and physical problems,**

**Be it resolved, that the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association condemn torture wherever it occurs, and**

**Be it further resolved, that the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association support the UN Declaration and Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and the UN Principles of Medical Ethics, as well as the joint Congressional Resolution opposing torture that was signed into law by President Reagan on October 4, 1984.**