



Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice

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Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ) Statement

In this sad and difficult time in our nation's history, we grieve with the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others who have lost their loved ones. For too long, the fabric of our society has been tainted with racism. Collectively, we need to come together and say, "no more." We join our fellow brothers and sisters across the nation in condemning actions that are fueled by hate and intolerance in all forms.

We all have a role to play if we want to change the injustices that we have seen against various groups. As academics, we have two strong tools in our toolbox. One is advocating for policy reforms grounded in empirical research and best practices. We can draw on the decades of evidence-based research and expertise within our discipline and of our members specifically. We can assist in paving the way for discussions, practices, and solutions to address the existing disparities within our criminal justice system.

The second tool in our toolbox is education. We serve to educate future academics and practitioners to be more thoughtful and accepting of diverse people. By educating the next generation of leaders and community stakeholders, we actively share our knowledge to inform and shape future minds and policies. By using both of these tools, we can promote progress towards justice and equality by working together with students, researchers, practitioners, and community stakeholders throughout our region and across the country.

These are some of the core values and objectives of our organization and we encourage our colleagues to utilize their expertise in the criminal justice system to assist in bringing about the change that is imperative for our nation. We can do this together, as academics, researchers, teachers, and leaders.

Sincerely,

The Executive Board of the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice (SWACJ)