



Statement on Racism and Trauma

Arlington, VA (June 1, 2020) The deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless more are profoundly traumatic for their friends, families and communities, and a reminder of the racism and injustice faced by people of color in America and across the world.

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD) expresses our deepest sympathies for all those directly and indirectly impacted by these deaths, and we recognise the profound toll of racism on people of color, their families and communities, and society at large.

Racism is a leading cause of collective trauma and a reality for millions of Americans.

The individual and collective trauma of racism can only heal when the root cause of that trauma is addressed. Police brutality must end. Inequalities of justice and opportunity in America must end. The deadly scourge of racism must end.

Our shared experience treating complex trauma has shown, time and again, that safety from abuse and violence requires all individuals and agencies to be held accountable for their actions no matter their status.

ISSTD supports all municipal partners in finding ways to work with members of the community to decrease divisiveness, to hold those in positions of power accountable for their actions and to find ways that will enable all community members to heal from violence and abuse.

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About ISSTD

The International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation represents mental health professionals who specialise in treating complex trauma and dissociation. The ISSTD's membership includes more than 1500 clinicians and researchers. The ISSTD seeks to advance clinical, scientific, and societal understanding about the prevalence and consequences of complex trauma and dissociation.

For more information, contact:

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