

PSYSR

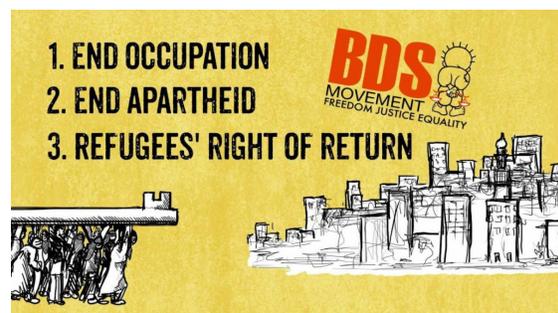
PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Steering Committee Updates: BDS Vote Results

The PsySR steering committee voted to endorse the [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement](#). The vote took place after we collected input from PsySR members. Of those members who responded, 87% supported PsySR endorsement of BDS.



PsySR Instagram Account

To keep up with the times, we have added an Instagram account! Please follow us @psysr_org

Upcoming Community Conversations

Aloha 'Āina. Historic & Contemporary Hawaiian Patriotism, Resistance to Complicity by Proxy, & Protection of Sacred Lands

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

1 PM-2:30 HST// 4:00-5:30 PM PDT// 6:00-7:30 PM CDT // 7:00-8:30 PM EDT

Presenters: Dr. Lana Sue I. Ka'opua (PhD, DCSW, LSW) and Richard Rothschiller

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_j3P4c7jrQtaRoQo53CUBxw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar



Standing tall for the sacred mountain. Maunakea is genealogically linked to the native people of Hawaii. Maunakea is known as our kupuna, our ancestor, our teacher, our protector, our corrector, our guide. For the last 10 years, we have held off the project of building an 18 story telescope on top of our mountain... over our water aquifer and the source of water for much of this island. If we don't stand for the most sacred,

what do we stand for?

We are making a stand as not just Native people, but really as a worldwide community. In this community conversation, we ask How do Aloha 'Āina & Kapu Alona compare/contrast with PsySR's culture of peace, social justice, and social responsibility? What are the ways to champion Indigenous issues in professional training and continuing education? In community and national conversations? What is Kapu Aloha and how have these constructs been used to resist Western hegemony?

Lana Sue I. Ka'opua, PhD, DCSW, LSW is retired professor of the University of Hawai'i-Manoa and the UH Cancer Center. She is passionate about social justice and health equity. She

convenes the Social Work & Health Inequalities Network, a global organization and recently, served as editor of a special journal issue on the health and well-being of Indigenous Peoples. As health researcher and author, she partners with medically-underserved communities in Hawai'i, American Samoa, and the Pacific Basin. She is dedicated to active protection and preservation of Wahi Pana (Sacred Places). As part of the Maunakea Medics and Healers Hui, she coordinated Nā Leo Lokomaika'i, telephone support for protectors of Kahuku, Maunakea, and Waimanalo. She is inspired by the Samoan wisdom: "O le tele o sulu e maua se fagota, e mama se avega pe at amo fa'atasi." "My strength does not come from me alone but rather from the many working with each other...working as one."

Allyship is not enough: a call for movement towards anti-racist action in and out of the therapy room

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

1 PM HST// 4:00 PM PDT// 6 PM CDT // 7:00 PM EDT

Presenter: Maya Florsheim

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GKhDp3YpSUG7LyM03JLRew

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

In addition to being majority white, the United States has historical roots in a white supremacist, racist, slave-owning society. As such, white Americans are not forced to go through the process of "double consciousness," the term coined by W.E.B. DuBois in 1903 to describe "the sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others."

Like a fish in water, to most white folks, whiteness just "is." We have the privilege to not have to recognize whiteness as a racialized identity because we are "the norm" - we are what white supremacy tells us we "should" be. As a white person, I cannot call myself an ally. However, what I can do is to try to actively fight against and dismantle racism and anti-blackness in all aspects of my life and my work.

Join this critical conversation to talk about the importance of using our work as clinicians to challenge racism whenever it shows up in our lives. And not only challenge, but to motivate others to move towards active anti-racism.

Presenter Bio:

Maya Florsheim is finishing up her third year at The Wright Institute,

where she is pursuing a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology. Maya's research involves using relational therapy between white clinicians and white clients to actively challenge racism when it shows up in the therapy room. Maya got involved with PsySR to further her passion for racial justice work, and she has been on the Steering Committee for two years. Maya helped organize the Healing Justice: Ending Mass Incarceration conference that took place in November of 2019.

HEALING JUSTICE

Video Release: Double Bound: Dual Loyalty Dilemmas of Prison Health Professionals is a 21 minute video produced by Martha Davis, Ian Hansen and Alice LoCicero for Psychologists for Social Responsibility. With eye witness accounts and expert testimony, this video zeroes in on the very special conflicts and harrowing experiences of prison health professionals and what must be done to support them and the health care of prisoners.

To view the video, go to: <https://vimeo.com/421911283>

Bibliography of Resources from Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement

PsySR partner organization, Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC), published the following Bibliography of Resources on the impacts of solitary confinement:

Shedding Light on Solitary Confinement

Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement's Bibliography published by the Council on Social Work Education on May 5, 2020

Social Workers Against Solitary Confinement (SWASC) seeks to abolish the use of solitary confinement and supports social workers in its fight against this social injustice. As one of its projects it created the Bibliography *Shedding Light on Solitary Confinement*.

CSWE published the Bibliography as its Educator/Resource for May 2020. It offers a comprehensive overview of solitary confinement that includes voices of those who have been affected by it, the ethical dilemma of health and social service providers who work in criminal justice facilities, and humane alternatives. The database provides an extensive set of more than 300 teaching resources that can be used in a range of social work courses. This includes courses in criminal justice and practice courses in mental health, policy, community, advocacy, and social justice and human rights.

You can find the Bibliography under the following link on the CSWE website:

<https://www.cswe.org/Centers-Initiatives/Centers/Center-for-Diversity.aspx>

and under *Practice in Criminal Justice: Carceral Settings*

<https://www.cswe.org/Centers-Initiatives/Centers/Center-for-Diversity/Diversity-Justice-Practice/Practice-in-Criminal-Justice-Carceral-Settings>

We thank Darla Coffey, President and CEO and members of the Council on Social Work Education for acknowledging the contributions of SWASC and especially Yolanda Padilla for her creative support and guidance in launching this project.

For more information and comments, contact SWASC at swasc999@gmail.com

www.socialworkersasc.org

www.endsolitaryconfinementtoolkit.org

Compliance or Critical Thinking?

By Terry A. Kupers, M.D., M.S.P.

(Many thanks to Willow Katz and Dolores Canales for support and editing)

Prisoners consigned to solitary confinement or Security Housing Unit (SHU) are derided as “the worst of the worst.” But when I enter SHUs around the country in preparation for expert testimony in class action litigation, I find very ordinary people, with some exceptions. There are very bright people, and there are not so bright people, just as in the community. There are mean and ornery people and there are peaceful and very caring people, just as in the community (and in prison the peaceful and caring are much more numerous). The exceptions include the fact that: 1. A disproportionate number of prisoners in solitary suffer from serious mental illness (S.M.I.) -- either they were diagnosed before entering solitary or they developed emotional problems on account of the harsh conditions -- and that’s why, when I started touring supermax solitary confinement units in the 80s and 90s, I found that 50% of SHU-dwellers suffered from S.M.I.; 2. A disproportionate number are people of color -- the racism that permeates the criminal “justice” system does not stop at the prison walls; and 3. A large proportion of individuals in solitary confinement are very bright and very political -- I think officers are intimidated by willful and very intelligent prisoners, and selectively send them to solitary. Of course, the subgroups can overlap, so there are no sharp boundaries. In any case, the population in SHUs are very far from “the

worst of the worst.”

Continue Reading

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

From Zaher Krayem: Reflection from Lebanon

Lebanon a melting pot of sects, religions and various political parties is going through a massive tumultuous eruption. A self-reflection on values, and a dim hope for a bright future. One feels the despair in the air. You sense the sadness and the fear in the cab driver's eyes. You see the embarrassment of the more well off 1 % as they try to make sense of the country's pain not knowing what to say at times the only solution is refrain. A country that has been organized by war-lords for decades waking up from a nightmare angry at its fate wondering if it's too late. A realization by the youth that their only option for a decent life is the rough and lonely life of an immigrant cut off from their roots and replanted far away. Most are fighting for the dimming hope of a reason to stay. That is the state of Lebanon today. "A mother that is holding back her tears in agony trying to remain sane".

This fate seems to be a global condition today. Added to this economic quagmire are the biblical events of coronavirus as if humanity needed an added wake up call from above. We definitely seem to be going through a collective time of self-reflection, a time where each of us has to look at their soul and ask the existential question. It has become a reality even for the one's living unconsciously under the trance of modern technology, instant messages and instant gratification. Maybe this can be an opportunity to re-evaluate our collective values. Maybe this pandemic and economic structure is a wake up call to remind humanity of the values of shared humanity regardless of skin color, religion, sexual orientation, or body type and health. In Lebanon this has been clearly manifested in the fear of the indoctrinated losing their power and grip on it. It has also invigorated the youth to conquer their fear and break the silence. This seems to be a global phenomenon witnessed in other parts of the world most notably Hong Kong, Iraq, US, and even Iran. There's an invisible world pot and it is seemingly coming to a boiling point.

On the individual level, as a Psychologist I have seen how this has impacted the individual. Despite the creation of an internal crisis that seems to mirror the fragmented reality of the outside world there seems to be a call for a new higher level of awareness. A refusal to repeat the mistakes of the past. A push by the unconscious to reveal the history of humanity and a desire to examine new and different more inclusive routes that may lead to healthier societies. This seems to be the inevitable solution to the disasters we see around the world

caused by this income discrepancy between less than 1 percent of the population and the rest of the world. The poorer less fortunate majority are immensely more impacted by these dier circumstances. The Corona virus has seemingly evened the playing field in terms of not caring how much money you make and struck the deep cord. Highlighted the interconnectedness of us all and raised awareness. Will the world respond? Will the values of collaboration, transparency and social justice finally take the forefront? And will the repetitive compulsive values of greed, domination, subjugation and oppression naturally take a U-turn in the interest of survival and solidarity realizing the universality of our human condition.

Zaher Krayem, PsyD

UPCOMING EVENTS

The PsySR ICE Response team is organizing the **National Day of Action for Healing and Liberation** on Friday, June 26th, 2020. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting opportunity to demonstrate radical solidarity with immigrant communities!

To get involved please email Monica from the PsySR ICE response team at noriegamonica2@gmail.com

COVID-19 Mutual Aid Fund For ❤️
Migrants in Matamoros ❤️

Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) & Bay Area Border Relief (BABR) are launching a Mutual Aid Fund in solidarity with asylum seekers impacted by the Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) in the Matamoros Refugee Camp (across the border from Brownsville, TX).

All donations will be given to the Bay Area Border Relief (BABR) to distribute funds & tangible resources (food, water, masks, and sanitary products) directly to families in the camp.

❤️ DONATE:
<https://tinyurl.com/MatamorosMutualAid>



Please consider donating to the COVID-19 **Mutual Aid fund for Migrants in Matamoro**

VOICES FROM THE MARGINS



Please consider signing the petition to save the **Gateway to College Program**

Since 2012, the Gateway to College program in San Pablo, California has been a lifeline for these students, who typically enter with a

GPA below a 2.0 and exit with higher graduation rates than the national averages for similar demographics (Gateway's high

school graduation rate is currently at 50%; populations with high rates of compounded trauma have high school graduation rates well below 50% in the United States). Unlike average California schools, Gateway offers one-on-one academic and vocational counseling, college-level courses, and free mental health services to all of its students. Research shows that intensively supportive and caring student-staff relationships, community building in the academic environment, culturally relevant teaching and vocationally-oriented coursework are transformative success factors for students impacted by trauma and adversity. We see the evidence here at Gateway not only in the lives saved, but also in the love and inner transformation that this program brings to its students.

Gateway to College is currently under high risk of closure due to a reported lack of funds. Lack of funding and lack of commitment to invest in education of Black and Brown youth from low socioeconomic backgrounds and/or marginalized communities is part of a larger systemic issue. Since its opening in 2012, the Gateway program has had to defend its existence and fight for contract renewal multiple times with the college and the school district. The prolonged situation of lack of support makes us concerned that Gateway students and their families are being overlooked and deemed unimportant. In the little communication we have had with the college, the administration has cited statistics of low graduation and attendance rates. These standards are unfair and antithetical to the very purpose of Gateway to College. Our marginalized students are being measured by the same quantitative standards as students who on average have many more resources.

Please learn more about what you can do to support Gateway to College and sign the petition [HERE](#).

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