

# PSYSR

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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## Announcements

### Message from the President



Dear PsySR members, I feel that we are in a very important moment of history. I am outraged that this moment has arrived at the cost of bloodshed, torture, and terror of racist violence, which has been here for centuries. I am hopeful that more and more people are joining the movement towards

dismantling existing colonial and white supremacist systems, and building a different society that recognizes the inherent nobility of all people, prioritizes life over profit, and engages in actions of solidarity

and mutual aid. I feel there is a lot of hard work ahead - personally for myself to continue dismantling the toxic ways of whiteness and materialism within - and to continue contributing in various ways towards community building and liberation. I have faith that PsySR will rise to this occasion and do its part.

We are currently working hard on the plan for National Day of Action for Healing and Liberation on June 26, which was specifically scheduled to also honor the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. PsySR has a rich history and legacy of fighting torture and calling to accountability the existing power structures of APA. We need to build on this legacy, and continue addressing the torture that happens in the hands of the police, in local jails, prisons, and detention centers. Anti-racist work, and work of decolonization, is also anti-torture work.

There is a team working on a statement on Black Liberation. We are taking our time with it to honor the process and the gravity of the work. We have also created a new anti-racist working group for white people. We are exploring other creative ideas for advocacy and action. Please feel free to reach out with any suggestions. I'd also love to hear from you about efforts and protests in your local communities. Please send us your photos and reports!

I am including a photo from a protest in Oakland on June 3rd, where several thousand people gathered for a sit-in to protest police terror and a racist curfew that was instituted following the initial protests after the murder of George Floyd.

I am wishing you good health and strength to stay with the work,

Daniela

## Steering Committee Updates

### **PsySR Statement of Solidarity with Venezuela**

We, as Psychologists for Social Responsibility, lift our voices in unequivocal solidarity with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in its resistance to the relentless imperialist attacks from the United States, the European Union and other interventionist governments. We express our absolute disgust at ongoing attempts to exploit the Venezuelan peoples and undermine their sovereignty – especially with the escalation of unwarranted aggressions in the midst of a global health crisis - actions which further exemplify the brutal character of an empire built on genocide, slavery, and the colonial rape of stolen lands.

We recognize that the U.S. Psychology industry has historically profited from its heavy hand in the development and implementation of psychological warfare which is part of foreign policy

and ultimately provides the basis for the political, economic, kinetic, and law-based elements of the prolonged wars of conquest being waged on Venezuela and a number of other nations. We call attention to the deleterious impacts of psychological warfare on the overall health, safety, and well-being of all persons targeted for manipulation through the conveyance of "selected information indicators to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately the behavior of foreign governments, organizations, groups, and individuals" in order to destabilize the nation and advance U.S. interests in the region.\*

[Continue Reading](#)

[Read the Statement in Spanish](#)

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## **New PsySR Anti-Racist Working Group**

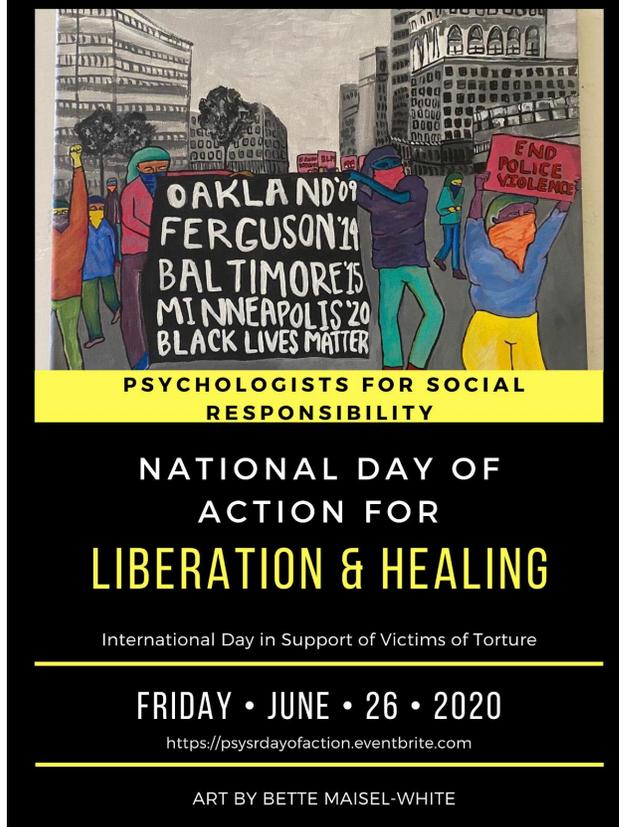
After a well-attended Community Conversation last week, "Allyship is Not Enough: A Call for Movement Towards Antiracist Action In and Out of the Therapy Room," by PsySR steering committee members, Maya Florsheim, many PsySR members expressed interest in continuing this important work, the Steering Committee has created the PsySR Antiracist Action Working Group. This group will come together to discuss how to incorporate antiracist ideals and practices into our work as therapists, and in our daily lives. We have created a listserv specific to this working group.

If you missed the presentation, or would like to listen again, please [click here](#)

If you are interested in joining this listserv please send an email with "Subscribe to Ant-Racism Listserv" in the subject line to [Maya Florsheim](#)

## **National Day of Action for Healing and Liberation**

On June 26th, the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, PsySR is facilitating a national day of action in collaboration with activists, organizers, students, and psychologists on the front lines of various movements for solidarity and liberation. During this Day of Action, PsySR is inviting clinicians and community members to join forces in demanding justice for Black lives, refugees at the US/Mexico border, and



Palestinians on the West Bank through a series of webinars and critical conversations. As part of our commitment to praxis, PsySR is also partnering with revolutionary grassroots organizations including Anti Police-Terror Project, Af3irm SF Bay Area, and Bay Area Border Relief to organize several direct actions including Mutual Aid Funds, Phone Zaps, Public Commentary, and a Community Vigil.

As Psychologists for Social Responsibility, we believe that there is no such thing as

dual loyalty under existing systems of oppression, in particular, colonialism, white supremacy, and capitalism. Our only loyalty is to the fight for collective liberation and justice for all oppressed peoples, as a necessary component of their mental health and overall physical and social well-being. The time to fight for systemic change, abolition, and anti-racism in our communities, in our field, and across borders, is **now!**

Please see the event page with schedule and webinar links here:  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/psysr-national-day-of-action-for-liberation-and-healing-tickets-107658844502>

Our original statement and call for national day of action can be found here:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe83NuEmvaT6VkUSXxGOTG8wL6sU6QVnXyq0rUIBTT9aMcKoA/viewform>

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR HEALING &  
LIBERATION

Friday, June 26th 2020

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

9AM PDT  
11AM CDT  
12PM EDT

**SOCIAL MEDIA BLAST**  
#PsySRdayofaction  
#WhiteTerrorisTorture

10AM PDT  
12PM CDT  
1PM EDT

**RADICAL SOLIDARITY  
BEYOND BORDERS**  
Dr. Hana Masud, Dr. Rakhshanda Saleem, Dr. Daniela Kantorova, Monica Noriega, M.A., Tenisha Hill, MPH

12PM PDT  
2PM CDT  
3PM EDT

**ANTI-BLACKNESS AND  
MIGRANT JUSTICE WEBINAR**  
AF3IRM SF BAY AREA

**PHONE ZAP <**  
**#DEFUNDTHEPOLICE**

1PM PDT  
3PM CDT  
4PM EDT

**REVOLUTIONARY  
HEALING WORKSHOP**  
ANTI POLICE-TERROR PROJECT,  
Asantewaa Boykin, RN

2PM PDT  
4PM CDT  
5PM EDT

**MOBILIZING TO #ENDMPP:  
PUBLIC COMMENTARY**  
BAY AREA BORDER RELIEF

3PM PDT  
5PM CDT  
6PM EDT

**DEFENDING ASYLUM PANEL**  
BAY AREA BORDER RELIEF -  
Dr. Belinda Hernandez-Arriaga, Lilli Ray,  
Corie Garcia  
UC HASTINGS CENTER FOR GENDER &  
REFUGEE STUDIES - Karen Musalo, JD

4PM PDT  
6PM CDT  
7PM EDT

**BLACK LIBERATION &  
HEALING JUSTICE PANEL**  
PsySR & Wright Institute BSU  
Dr. Ericka Mingo, Dr. Aisha Dixon-Peters,  
Dr. Garnadette Stuckey & Tenisha Hill, MPH

7:30PM PDT  
9:30PM CDT  
10:30PM EDT

**AFFIRMING OUR ANCESTORS  
SOLIDARITY VIGIL & SPEAK OUT  
(LIVE STREAM & IN PERSON)**  
#SAYHERNAME  
#MMIW  
#NIUNAMAS  
#BLACKTRANSLIVESMATTER

<https://psysrdayofaction.eventbrite.com>

## Upcoming Community Conversations

### Upcoming Conversation

**In Science We (Should Not Blindly) Trust:  
Psychology's Sciences of Colonization/Decolonizing  
Psychology Sciences**

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

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

Presenter: Oksana Yakushko, PhD

The foundation of U.S. academic psychology rests firmly on eugenics or "science of racial betterment." Numerous leading U.S. psychologists, including Stanley Hall (first president of the APA), Robert Yerkes (founder of comparative/animal psychology, military testing), John B. Watson (behaviorism), Lewis Terman (intelligence testing), E. Thorndike (educational psychology) were active members of numerous eugenic organizations, and made eugenic ideas/ideology central in their works. Eugenic publications (past and present), including eugenic "sciences" foundational to Nazism, Jim Crow laws, the Apartheid and more, were grounded in eugenic sciences produced by varied U.S. psychologists. Frantz Fanon named these "shameful sciences," noting how their use was essential to methods of colonization. In contrast, eugenicists promote their work as highly scientific (e.g., produced by leading scientists, published in leading journals, utilizing "hard" sciences of statistics and genetics) while decrying any efforts of sciences focused on social justice as "dogma" and "feel-good political correctness." In this presentation, brief history of eugenics in U.S. psychology through today will be highlighted. A conversation in regard to efforts to decolonize psychology sciences, decolonizing public understanding and acceptance of sciences as non-ideological/unbiased "truth," and ideas about ways to question sanitized representations of "scientific racism," "scientific sexism," and other forms of science-based oppression in psychology.

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FJrrIWwRSPSdO4jNnEozFA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FJrrIWwRSPSdO4jNnEozFA)

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

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## Recent Conversations

Check out our last community convo: Allyship is Not Enough: A Call for Movement Towards Anti-Racist Action In and Out of the Therapy Room

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.

**Watch this community convo here:**

<https://vimeo.com/426342034>

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If you missed the conversation on Aloha 'Āina: Historic & Contemporary Hawaiian Patriotism, Resistance to Complicity by Proxy, & Protection of Sacred Lands, **Watch this community convo here:** <https://vimeo.com/424571577>

## Voices From The Margins

Please stand with PsySR in radical solidarity with the movement for abolition and Black liberation! Learn more about this movement from The Intercept's latest podcast on the case for abolition. Description below:

The Intercept's latest podcast on the movement to defund the police. The movement to defund the police in the United States is gaining unprecedented momentum as protests continue across the globe. This week on Intercepted: Chenjerai Kumanyika, assistant professor of journalism and media studies at Rutgers University, hosts a special two-part discussion. Kumanyika is co-host of the podcasts "Uncivil" and "Scene on Radio." He is an organizer with 215 People's Alliance and the Debt Collective. He is joined for this episode of Intercepted by the iconic geographer and abolitionist Ruth Wilson Gilmore, author of "Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California." Gilmore is one of the world's preeminent scholars on prisons and the machinery of carceral punishment and policing. In this discussion, she offers a sweeping and detailed analysis of the relentless expansion and funding of police and prisons, and how locking people in cages has become central to the American project. Gilmore offers a comprehensive road map for understanding how we have arrived at the present political moment of brutality and rebellion, and she lays out the need for prison abolition and defunding police forces.

Listen here: <https://theintercept.com/2020/06/10/ruth-wilson-gilmore-makes-the-case-for-abolition/>

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