



**Association of International Education Administrators**  
*Leaders in International Higher Education*

Thursday, June 4, 2020

We write today on behalf of the Association of International Education Administrators in response to the consequences of racism in the United States and throughout the world.

We see the current pandemic and racism as being interconnected in highlighting the realities of inequality, inequity and injustice that manifest in many tragic ways. The higher COVID-19 mortality rates among U.S. African Americans are reflective of a broader history of social inequality and institutionalized racism in the United States. The killing of George Floyd by a public officer is the most recent example of black Americans being assaulted or killed without justification.

We recognize that merely stating that racism is horrifying is not enough, and saying that all people must be respected is not enough. We must each commit on a daily basis to take action to address racism and inequalities in our systems and communities and never forget that while we may have differences, we share a common humanity.

AIEA cherishes the values of ethical and innovative leadership, equity and inclusive excellence, curiosity and respect. We denounce intolerance, bigotry and racism in all forms as the antithesis of the values upheld by our organization. We stand together as we work collectively to uphold the dignity and worth of every person. We renew our commitment to educating students to be globally conscious for positive engagement in our diverse and complex world.

While higher education holds promise and potential as a great equalizer in society, we must confront the reality that it has often reproduced both inequality and exclusion. We strive to be part of a shift toward more equitable access and outcomes. To that end, we encourage real dialogue and deep listening on our campuses as we seek ways to address all that confronts us. Further, AIEA is committed to advocating for real opportunities within diversity and inclusion efforts for authentically diverse leadership of international education.

AIEA is a strong community with members from more than 35 countries around the world, each faced with the reality of inequality. We stand together, and we are here to support each other.

*AIEA Board and Secretariat*