

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Human Rights

Approved by the Board of Trustees, March 2023

Approved by the Assembly, November 2022

“Policy documents are approved by the APA Assembly and Board of Trustees. . . These are . . . position statements that define APA official policy on specific subjects. . .” – *APA Operations Manual*

Issue:

Human rights abuses impact the mental health of individuals worldwide. Educating psychiatrists and other mental health professionals about the impact of human rights abuses supports the mission of the American Psychiatric Association.

APA Position:

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) recognizes that human rights abuses, such as, but not limited to, unjust incarceration, cruel and unusual punishment, torture, and human trafficking, have mental health consequences on victims and their families. The denial or cover-up of human rights abuses by governments and institutions is antithetical to the mental health of victims and their families. APA coordinates with agencies and organizations dedicated to human rights and prevention of human rights abuses.

Author: Council on International Psychiatry and Global Health