



## UNDERSTANDING AND TOLERANCE May 2022

The Florida Psychological Association is a state psychological association based in very diverse area of the country. We are also bound by professional ethics with core tenets around justice, integrity, and human rights. Regardless of our membership's individual beliefs and leanings regarding political affiliations, as a professional association, our actions must be driven by our appreciation of and commitment to the ethics of our profession. The FPA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and FPA Diversity Committee would like to reemphasize our commitment to using our skills as psychologists, academicians, and graduate students in order to encourage and foster social justice in all spaces and for the diverse communities we serve. As an association, as psychologists, and as humans we want to recognize the hurt and fear that has resulted from the current political atmosphere, and that we will do everything we can to support our membership in their efforts to engage and address these challenges. We acknowledge the intersecting identities of our membership and of those we serve throughout the state.

Unfortunately, for those currently working with clients/patients, or teaching/supervising students, the results and impact of these election results and subsequent policy decisions have had a profoundly negative impact. Specifically, marginalized groups including people of color, people of Muslim faith, immigrant communities, women, sexual and gender minorities, those with disabilities, the aging community, those living in poverty, and all communities impacted by HIV/AIDS and other chronic or severe physical or mental illnesses. As an association, we also want to honor the APA Ethical Principles which state that "Psychologists respect and protect civil and human rights..." and FPA prides itself on advocating for psychologists.

Finally, FPA wants to reiterate to our colleagues, that you are not invisible or alone, and you certainly have a voice and a seat at our table. Regardless of your personal beliefs, if you are committed to serving all of the diverse communities in the state of Florida, and our country at-large, then we are with you and we ask you to let us know what you need and how we might best respond. Please convey your struggles and how we might best facilitate and reaffirm our support. We are stronger as a unified front, and as socially responsible practitioners, we make our communities stronger as well. We must use the power and privilege as an association and within our ranks because we have a unique opportunity to speak clearly and definitively for those without a voice. To remain silent as marginalized groups are pushed further to the fringes is not an option.

Self-care is of the utmost importance, so please remember to take care of yourselves and your loved ones as you work to support these vulnerable communities.

**How many marginalized people in FL will likely be impacted?** <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/12>

- 19.4% over the age of 65
- 16.8% black or African American
- 24.5% Latino/Hispanic

- 2% multiracial
- 19.7% foreign-born
- 1,507,738 veterans
- 8.5% under the age of 65 with a disability
- 15.7% living in poverty

**Community Resources:**

Council on American-Islamic Relations <https://www.cair.com>

Equality Florida <http://www.eqfl.org/>

Trans Action Florida <http://www.eqfl.org/transactionfl>

Southern Poverty Law Center <https://www.splcenter.org/>

Southerners on New Ground <http://southernersonnewground.org/>

Southern Legal Counsel <http://www.southernlegal.org/>

ACLU <https://www.aclu.org/>

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