CSWE Statement of Accountability and Reconciliation for Harms Done to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

Recommendations for Social Worker Educators and Social Workers

**Acknowledge the Harms done to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples**

"Acknowledgment is powerful, transformative, and a prerequisite to accountability" (CSWE, 2021).

 Forced Assimilation & Cultural Genocide:
- Widespread Child Welfare Programs
- Forced Sterilization
- Inadequate Health Care Provisions
- Inability to Engage in Cultural Practices
- Systemic Racism

**Decolonize**

Dismantle Settler-Colonialism:
- Value Indigenous Knowledge & Epistemologies
- EDUCATE students on the history of the land’s original inhabitants
- Understand trauma- and resilience-informed perspectives from Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
- Don’t tokenize or use for financial gain
- Conduct culturally appropriate research that includes tribal members in the process

**Respect Indigenous and Tribal Peoples’ Diversity**

- Native Americans (American Indians)
- Alaska Native Peoples
- Taino
- Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians)
- Chamorros
- Peoples of Nations Affiliated With the United States Through the Compact of Free Association
- American Samoans

**Support the self-determination of communities to build culturally congruent systems of economic, social, and spiritual supports**

- Incorporate traditional healing practices
- Train local Indigenous & Tribal People as peer specialists
- Champion the ICWA & advocate for state compliance for the ICWA

**Advocate for Equitable Access**

- Recruit and support Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
- Critically evaluate admission policies
- Ensure visibility of Indigenous & Tribal Peoples
- Foster a space that encourages Indigenous & Tribal Peoples’ perspectives and voices

**Advocate for Indigenous and Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination**

- Support laws, policies, & practices that uphold and reinforce sovereignty and self-determination
- Advocate for the U.S. government to fulfill treaty obligations to Indigenous and Tribal Peoples
- Advocate for funding and support for social, health, & educational programs
- Understand the impact of jurisdictional issues when working with Indigenous & Tribal Peoples in social work

**U.S. Colonized Territories**

574 Federally Recognized Tribes in U.S.
- Each with distinct cultures


This document was created by Kaleigh Edwards, MSW/MPH Brown School Candidate in 2021 as part of her practicum at the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies. Please email bcais@wustl.edu for questions.