Eliminate Racism

A Grand Challenge for Social Work

Racism permeates American society, and eliminating racism is inextricably linked to the work of each of the Grand Challenges for Social Work (GCSW). Indeed, the GCSW had previously developed a statement of [Vision, Mission, Domain, Guiding Principles, and Guideposts to Action](#) that clarified that "the commitment to ending racism and other injustices is fundamental throughout the Grand Challenges." However, this statement was not strong or specific enough to express the GCSW's commitment to eliminate the scourge of historic and structural racism.

In this context, the Grand Challenge to **Eliminate Racism** was established in 2020 — a year in which the nation and the world's attention was once again focused on racial injustice and ending systemic violence and oppression against Black people. It recognizes that the United States is built on a legacy of racism and white supremacy that has consistently and significantly affected the daily lives of millions of people. It acknowledges that today, racist policies, bias, and discriminatory practices continue to promote racial inequality in myriad ways. In response, the **Eliminate Racism** network will identify evidence and practice-based interventions that take on discrimination in all its forms and redress racism's most dangerous and negative effects on the health and well-being of our country by joining the national efforts to build anti-racist systems, policies, and communities. We encourage all to share how you are working to #EliminateRacism so that we may work together to tackle this Grand Challenge.

Network Leadership

NETWORK CO-LEADS

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LOOKING BACK

The Grand Challenge to **Eliminate Racism** was formalized in 2020. Network co-leads and members of the wider GCSW community have been working for the past five years to establish the foundation for this effort. Among other actions, they have:

- **Spoken out** about social work and racism, including on the _Social Work Podcast_ on the question of "What role do social work deans & directors play in addressing the legacy of racism and white supremacy?" and on _U Rising_ about social work's commitment to anti-racism

- **Participated** in the _inaugural conference_ of the Collaboration on Race, Inequality, and Social Mobility in America, "Race at the Forefront: Sharpening a Focus on Race in Applied Research"

- **Cosponsored** a _Congressional briefing_ on "Black Lives Matter: Social Work and the Future of Policing" along with the Grand Challenges to **Promote Smart Decarceration** and **Achieve Equal Opportunity and Justice for All**

- **Cosponsored** a Social Work Leadership Roundtable _Town Hall_ on Racial Equity

LOOKING AHEAD

A book on the Grand Challenge to **Eliminate Racism** will be published by Oxford University Press in 2021. The book is edited by network co-leads Martell Teasley and Michael Spencer, and their colleague Melissa Bartholomew, and includes authors representing each of the other 12 Grand Challenges. In addition to publishing the book, members of the Grand Challenge have articulated the following objectives for the next several years:

- **Focus** on evidence and practice-based research that cultivates innovation to improve the conditions of daily life of people impacted by racism and facilitates systemic change on the individual, organization, community, and societal levels

- **Advance** community empowerment and advocacy for eradicating racism and white supremacy through solutions that create sustainable changes

- **Foster** the development of an anti-racist social work workforce that promotes access to resources and opportunities and encompasses transdisciplinary collaboration

- **Promote** teaching and learning within social work education programs that examines structural inequalities and white privilege, and their impact on individual and group outcomes

- **Develop** a policy agenda for eradicating racism and white supremacy from institutions and organizations, where structural racism is evident and causes the most damage

- **Examine** the profession of social work itself with respect to rooting out racist policies and practices

Succeeding Together

We want to hear about your efforts to **#EliminateRacism**!
Tag us on Twitter — **@GCSocialWork** — to share your work and inspire others!
#Up4theChallenge | **#EliminateRacism**

Join Us

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