

The California Library Association (CLA) stands in solidarity with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) in condemning violence and racism toward Black people and all people of color, and has endorsed BCALA's statement condemning increased violence and racism towards Black Americans and people of color. CLA also supports the right of everyone to protest actions of institutionalized racism, demanding change for their communities, and for the nation. We must reflect on the ways that CLA perpetuates institutional racism, and to take responsibility for challenging racial inequity and implementing positive change in our Association. We also strongly encourage our members to do the same in their libraries and in their communities.

CLA supports and empowers libraries, library staff, and library supporters to stand together; providing connections, learning, and advocacy for service to all in our communities. We join libraries in the struggle to end internal, institutional, and interpersonal forms of racism and oppression. Libraries are by intent places of learning, and institutions of social change. Though most of our physical doors are still closed by the COVID-19, CLA encourages all libraries to use all our available methods to hear from, speak with, and support our communities in pain.

Black lives matter, and CLA encourages all members to read BCALA's statement, to join the condemnation of the systemic and systematic social injustices endured by Black people and people of color, and to take the APALA's pledge against xenophobia. Racism, in all its forms, destroys our communities. We must all proactively work on eradicating racism anywhere and everywhere it exists.

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