



North American Drama Therapy Association Cultural Humility, Equity, & Diversity

Position Statement and Call to Action:

Recognizing and Standing Up Against Xenophobia and Anti-Immigrant and Foreign Student Policies

In recent weeks, the US Administration has taken advantage of the environment of stress, panic, and overwhelm present throughout the country in response to the ongoing mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to make targeted attacks on immigrants, international students, and non-immigrant visa holders.

To our community members with precarious immigration statuses, to students, colleagues, and clients impacted by the recent series of xenophobic laws targeting international students and non-immigrant visa holders: WE SEE YOU. We stand by you. We are here to support you.

POSITION STATEMENT:

We denounce the Department of Homeland Security's most recent targeting of asylum seekers, non-immigrant work visa holders and international students. The current Administration has blocked asylum seekers' [work permits](#) for a year, extended restrictions on the issuance of green cards, and called for the [suspension and limited entry of non-immigrant work visas](#) (including H-1B, H-2B, J, and L visas) affecting many international drama therapists currently working in the US. And while the Administration rescinded an executive order to deport international students who were not enrolled in in-person classes due to universities going online in response to COVID-19, this retraction does not negate the exclusion and xenophobia international students may have experienced in this country following this proposal.

We further recognize that these policies are only the most recent amongst a longstanding history of xenophobic policies. They are reminiscent of the pain and injustice caused by other recent and historical moments in which racialized immigrants, forced migrants (through slavery), and Indigenous people have been murdered and treated inhumanely on Turtle Island (North America). Continuing the violence that began with the colonization of Indigenous lands and peoples, was the forced migration and enslavement of African Americans, the exclusion of Native Americans (1830 Indian Removal Act, 1962 Homestead Act), Chinese, Japanese,

Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs (The Immigration Act of 1917), the turning away of Jews escaping the Holocaust, the Japanese labor camps of the WWII-era, and Jim Crow laws. Learn more about countless state-based xenophobic violence through [The History of Racism and Immigration Timeline](#).

More recently, we recognize the nationwide targeting and violent raiding of Latinx communities by federal ICE officials; the proclamation enforcing a travel ban and immigration block on 13 countries with substantial Muslim populations (including Myanmar, where the Muslim minority is fleeing genocide); the Administration's attempts to dismantle DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and the continued US border separation of asylum seeker families, and the detention of children in government facilities where sexual and physical abuse and horrific neglect occur. It is important to recognize the involvement of American and Canadian foreign policy in leading and supporting international wars which are destructive and destabilizing to several countries. Many of these people fleeing the very violence caused by North American superpowers in their homelands are being retargeted here in the US through the xenophobic and racist laws described above. We acknowledge the intersectionality of these oppressive practices and how they impact both people inside and outside the US. We stand with our international community in the desire to create a world free from violence, where all can be safe, and where no one is discriminated against, harmed, or murdered due to their nation of origin, racialized, or ethnic identity.

Trauma compounds upon trauma, and today, in the midst of a global pandemic, our international community members have been targeted again. The NADTA will not remain silent about how these policies and executive orders exclude and inhumanely scapegoat our international community.

We recognize that leaning into the prejudice and discrimination occurring against our international community members can fill us up with discomfort and despair; let us not forget that it was the activism, advocacy, and lawsuits filed by many of our universities that changed the discriminatory order against international students.

Let us engage with our response/ability to advocate and stand in solidarity with the communities impacted by exclusion and violence.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

Learn more about what you can do as a member of the drama therapy community.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY NADTA & OUR DRAMA THERAPY INSTITUTIONS - ACTIONS THAT YOU CAN TAKE

We recognize that while international students are no longer at risk of being deported, that the threat has caused undue stress and potentially trauma for many students. Should you believe that connecting with other international students or with a mental health professional would be

supportive, contact your international student offices and university's counselling and development departments to learn about what services they offer students, particularly international students, during these nerve wracking times.

- Kansas State University: <https://www.k-state.edu/iss/> or email iss@ksu.edu.
- NYU: <https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/international-students.html> or email ogs@nyu.edu
- CIIS: <https://www.ciis.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/international-students> or joconnor@ciis.edu or 415-575-6157.
- Lesley University: <https://lesley.edu/life-at-lesley/global-education> or global.ed@lesley.edu
- Antioch University: <https://www.antioch.edu/seattle/admissions-aid/admissions/international-student-assistance/>
- Concordia University: <http://www.concordia.ca/students/international.html>

RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE IN PRECARIOUS IMMIGRATION/STATUS SITUATIONS

[Study, project and emergency grants for BIPOC Creative Arts Therapy Students](#)

RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE AND ACTIONS TO RESIST XENOPHOBIC POLICIES

[Call to Action: \(Templates and Personalized Directives for Calls/Emails, and Petitions for White House, Congress, Supreme Court, and additional organizations\)](#)

[Banning non-immigrant visas](#)

[USA Immigration Visas Explainer](#)

[H1B Work Visas](#)

[Oppressive laws against asylum seekers](#)

AMERICA'S HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AND EXCLUSION TOWARDS RACIALIZED IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

[The History of racism and immigration timeline](#)

[Immigration Raids](#)

[Politics Trump Travel Ban](#)

[Holding Immigrant Children](#)

In your service, *The Cultural Humility, Equity, and Diversity Committee in collaboration with the Board of Directors of the North American Drama Therapy Association*

Ratified by the NADTA Board of Directors on 7/23/20