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June 2, 2020

**Statement from the President About Racist Violence Perpetrated
Against Black People in the United States and Marginalized
Communities Around the World**

As President of the AED, I write to express my shared outrage and pain over the continued and escalating violence against Black people in the United States and against marginalized people in countries around the world. In the U.S. the recent horrific murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breona Taylor, and George Floyd and the failure of law enforcement to meet this violence with swift action has sparked righteous protest around the country and demonstrations in solidarity in the UK and other countries. The racism, bigotry, and hate that motivated these murders and underlie the slow and inadequate responses from leadership are repugnant and demand that we speak out against racism and support action to dismantle the structures that reinforce and perpetuate racist practices and systems.

As health professionals, we have a fundamental obligation to respond to the trauma that Black and Brown people in the U.S. are experiencing right now, today, in this devastatingly low moment in U.S. recent history and that members of marginalized communities worldwide experience every day of their lives. The AED has a fundamental obligation to the Black and Brown people who are our patients, students, and fellow colleagues and to those from marginalized communities around the world to acknowledge the pain of the trauma of racism and bigotry and to work toward ending this cruelty and injustice.

Today is World Eating Disorders Day, a day that the AED is committed to speak out and organize to promote recognition of eating disorders and the vast suffering they cause and to demand equity in access to care for the many millions who struggle with eating disorders around the world. The AED must be no less committed to advancing racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our organization and in the world around us. I implore all of us as members of the AED to ask ourselves, "How is my approach to clinical care or research informed by antiracist principles of justice, equity, and respect? How does the training I offer to students and mentees include guidance in how to practice and conduct research in a way that is true to these principles?" For those of us who are white or who hold other privileged positions in society, we must seek out ways to engage with antiracist initiatives and support advocacy to advance social justice led

by Black and Brown people in our communities and by marginalized people in communities worldwide.

AED stands in solidarity with and in support of our Black and Brown colleagues in our professional society and in our communities, bearing witness to the trauma of racist injustices they are enduring now. The times demand of AED that we be change agents, not just on World Eating Disorders Day, but on all days and in all arenas of our lives. In community and in solidarity, AED must be part of recreating our world as one where all people are treated with the justice, equity and respect they deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bryn Austin', with a stylized, cursive script.

S. Bryn Austin, ScD, FAED