

February 1, 2022

**STATEMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF "RACE" & SOCIAL JUSTICE,
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO (race.unm.edu)**

The undersigned advisory board members of the Institute for the Study of "Race" & Social Justice at the University of New Mexico (race.unm.edu) are writing with regard to New Mexico House Bill HB 91 prohibiting the teaching of "critical race theory" in public schools. As scholars of race and social justice who have lifelong peer-reviewed records of research, teaching and community engagement, we believe that HB 91 should be rejected for several reasons:

- 1.) it presents false information about critical race theory with no factual basis;
- 2.) critical race theory is not taught in public schools;
- 3.) it nullifies discussion of the history and contemporary dynamics of race, racism and social justice in the U.S. and beyond;
- 4.) it places a target on the backs of teachers who have dedicated their lives to cultivating lifelong learning through critical thinking to educate our youth.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. As interdisciplinary scholars of race and social justice at UNM we would be happy to discuss the policy implications of these proposed restrictions to the discussion of race and social justice in our public schools and the research evidence that shows the benefits of these discussions for cultivating student success and creating healthy and loving communities. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Nancy López, Director and co-founder of the Institute for the Study of "Race" & Social Justice, Professor of Sociology at nlopez@unm.edu or (505) 277-3101. You may also visit the website for the Institute for the Study of "Race" and Social Justice at race.unm.edu. It is our hope that through rigorous study and important dialogues about race, racism and other intersecting oppressions and struggles for justice, we collectively work toward creating a more perfect union for all.

Sincerely,

Nancy López PhD
Shiv Desai PhD
Shinsuke Eguchi PhD
Kiran Katira PhD
Glenabah Martinez PhD
Steven Verney PhD

To support the work of the Institute please donate via our giving page at the UNM Foundation: <https://www.unmfund.org/fund/institute-for-the-study-of-race-and-social-justice/>

REFERENCES

American Anthropological Association. 1998. "Statement on Race." Washington, DC. Last accessed on 08/15/10 at <http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm>.

American Association of Physical Anthropologists. 1996. AAPA Statement on Biological Aspects of Race, American Journal of Physical Anthropology, (101):569-570. Last accessed on 08/15/10 at <http://physanth.org/association/position-statements/biological-aspects-of-race>.

American Psychological Association. 2002. Guidelines on Multicultural Education, Training, Research, Practice, and Organizational Change for Psychologists- Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Last accessed on 8/15/10 at <http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/policy/multicultural-guidelines.aspx>.

American Sociological Association. 2003. [The Importance of Collecting Data and Doing Social Scientific Research on Race](#). Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

Trans-disciplinary Guidelines for Researching “Race”: Trans-disciplinary “Race” Working, Institute for the Study of “Race” & Social Justice, The University of New Mexico, Spring 2010.

<https://race.unm.edu/about/race-research.html>

Statements regarding the Executive Order on "Combating Race & Sex Stereotyping"

American Historical Association

[AHA Statement on the recent "White House Conference on American History"](#)

AERA -
American Educational Research Association

[Statement in Support of Anti-Racist Education](#)

NADOHE -
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education

[NADOHE Statement of DEI Training](#)