

## In development: A new joint position statement on Equity & Justice

The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy University Programs (ACOTUP), together with the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT), the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO), Alliance of Canadian Occupational Therapy Professional Associations (ACOTPA) and the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation (COTF) as members of Occupational Therapy Canada (OTC) have established a Working Group to develop a Joint Position Statement on Equity and Justice. Established in November 2020, the Working Group is made up of a diverse group of occupational therapists and scientists with experience and expertise in equity and justice.

The purpose of the Joint Position Statement on Equity and Justice is to name and redress the systemic and intertwined oppressions that lead to inequities across health, social, and economic systems, as they relate to, and can be actioned by, the occupational therapy community.

These systemic oppressions compromise occupational justice for under-represented equity-seeking and deserving groups, including but not limited to those who identify as Indigenous, Black, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+, disabled and with mental health conditions, Mad, Deaf, and those living with invisible/episodic/fluctuating conditions among others. We recognize that intersections of ableism, ageism, classism, citizenship status, colonialism, the gender binary, heteronormativity, racism, saneism, sexism and/or structural poverty and structural violence produce differential experiences and outcomes.

This position statement will complement the proposed new competencies for occupational therapy in Canada. It will also aim to serve as a social accountability/intersectionality framework to foster conditions that shift normative and dominant cultures, dismantle systemic barriers, repair harm, support healing, eradicate discrimination, and aspire to co-create spaces that allow us to promote occupational justice more equitably within the scope of occupational therapy practice.

This statement will replace the 2014 Joint Position Statement on Diversity, which was retired by ACOTUP and its OTC partners in September 2020. ACOTUP is focused on co-constructing a new Joint Position Statement on Equity and Justice, in collaboration with diverse perspectives representative of our membership, other national occupational therapy organizations, and justice-focused initiatives. It is anticipated that the new joint position statement will be released Spring/Summer 2022.

Members of the Working Group are: Havelin Anand, Marianne Baird, Giovanna Boniface, Fizza Jafry, Leanne Leclair, Susan Mahipaul, Samira Omar, Elizabeth Pooley, H el ene Sabourin, Ruheena Sangrar, Danny Tran, and Hiba Zafran.

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