

**Message from the President**  
**Gretchen Hull, MD, FAAP**  
**Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**

Dear Chapter Members,

I write this message to everyone with a heavy yet hopeful heart. I have struggled the past weeks as the discussion of systemic racism in our country has weighed on me even as we are facing the challenge of the Covid 19 pandemic. Watching the video of Ahmaud Arbery's murder, then learning of Breonna Taylor's tragic shooting and finally the killing of George Floyd have all forced me to reexamine how I see racism in this country and what we can do to help and learn from our fellow citizens. We have witnessed many similar episodes of protests over the years, but this one feels different with the awareness and outrage growing among more diverse people and communities. This is a unique moment due to the pandemic when we have an opportunity to initiate true change that may be more sustainable with sustained effort on everyone's part.

As we all struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic and now are watching cities all over America struggle with the results of systemic racism, we are now confronting racism in our own lives and communities.

Racism can be as infectious and destructive as Covid-19, but unlike Covid-19, it has been around since the founding of our country. We know that racism contributes to the health and longevity of our patients as adverse childhood trauma affects children from a very early age. The AAP policy statement on racism states that "pediatricians are uniquely positioned to both prevent and mitigate the consequences of racism as a key and trusted source of support for pediatric patients and their families." I believe we are called to understand racism's impact on our families and how our own personal biases affect our interactions with them. We can't address it effectively if we aren't honest with ourselves.

The Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has made addressing child health inequity in Arizona and diversity and inclusion in our own organization priorities and we will continue to advocate for these priorities and support action at the national, state and local level for policies that address racism.

Below are some important links to resources that may help us learn and connect. Please reach out to us with any concerns and further resources you believe may benefit our community.

1. AAP: [Traumatic Impact of Racism on Young People](#)
2. AAP Statement: [Dismantle Racism at Every Level](#)
3. Healthy Children: [Talking to Children About Racial Bias](#)
4. [Anti-racism reading list](#)
5. APHA: [Addressing Law Enforcement Violence as a Public Health Issue](#)
6. Pediatrics: [Police, Equity and Child Health](#)

7. [Campaign Zero](#): Policy Solutions to End Police Violence
8. Teaching Tolerance: [Six Steps to Speak Up](#)
9. [The Praxis Podcast](#) with Edwin Lindo, JD

Sincerely,

Gretchen Hull, MD FAAP

*President*

*Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*