



BAAT STATEMENT ON 'BLACK LIVES MATTER

The British Association of Art Therapists believe passionately in the unique and intrinsic value of every single human being. Over recent weeks we have been deeply impacted by the horror we feel in response to the needless death of George Floyd. His story and the stories of so many others, who have been victims of racism and abuses of power fill us with anger and shame. These injustices have also shone a light brightly on an uncomfortable truth: in our own country too there is much that needs to be done, by each and every one of us, to address racism and inequality in our community. A growing understanding of how disproportionately our BAME communities have been impacted by COVID-19, has also demonstrated just how vital and urgent it is that we address the disadvantage and structural discrimination that so many face every single day.

BAAT was proud to join the Black Out Tuesday protest on the 2nd June on its social media platforms in support of Black Lives Matter. The newly elected BAAT council members met online on the 10th June and discussed what actions to take to ensure that this issue does not stay marginalised in statements which do not lead to real change. We think this needs to happen on several fronts which will involve all art therapists in initiatives such as community outreach to attract BAME students to our profession, work in partnership with educators to revise current curriculum to make it relevant to our BAME students and service users, campaign to roll out the arts therapies apprenticeships which will help address inequalities of access to training, work in partnership with employers to increase opportunities for BAME art therapists and work to ensure that BAAT council becomes more diverse in its composition. These are starting points and there will many other issues which will be addressed. We will consult and involve BAAT members in all these aspects of this work.

BAAT will also schedule free zoom events to provide training on cultural competence in art therapy practice. We also hope that all BAAT members will get involved within their regional groups and SIGs to engage with these issues, to make a stand, and to help to bring about change.