

Dr Adrian James,
President
Royal College of Psychiatrists
21 Prescot Street
London
E1 8BB

1st July 2020

Dear Dr James,

As the new president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists we know you are as appalled as we are at the shocking acts of violence against black people that have been highlighted and become the focus of sustained protests across the globe since the death of George Floyd. We welcome the forthcoming appointment of two presidential leads for race equality and are encouraged by your election-platform commitment to championing equality and diversity. We would urge you however to extend this undertaking to establishing a full independent commission.

As psychiatrists we bear witness to the devastating consequences of racism and discrimination on those viewed as other and de-humanised. There are persistent and pervasive inequities in society that result in members of the dominant group receiving daily benefits while others are disqualified, silenced, and attacked, or else rendered invisible in the name of an illusory equality. Psychiatry, psychology, and psychotherapy are deeply embedded in the historical roots through which social systems and structures created by colonisation, slavery, and economic exploitation have become institutionalised and incorporated into our ways of life and perceptions of each other. Historically, psychiatry has colluded with eugenic mass murder in Nazi Germany and labelled civil rights protesters and political dissidents as psychotic. To this day we continue to disproportionately incarcerate black people and coerce them into treatment. Moreover, if you are black you are more likely to die under restraint whilst receiving mental health care than if you are white.

We share a history with psychology and psychotherapy of not just ignoring the effects of discrimination, but painting other cultures as psychologically primitive and casting their approaches to understanding distress as backward superstitions. For the Royal College of Psychiatrists to be able to advocate on behalf of those most marginalised in our society, it must first put its house in order and root out all examples of institutional racism and colonial mentality in its training curricula and various practice guidelines. **We therefore call on the Royal College of Psychiatrists to set up an independent commission to examine all training curricula and practice guidelines that the College produces.**

Such a task force must contain a diversity of service users and recognised experts in institutional racism and colonialism. We hope you will see this as we do; as a once in a generation opportunity to put psychiatry at the forefront in tackling systemic racism and the malignant legacies of colonialism in medicine and society at large. We are publicising this call widely. We think a reply within two weeks is a reasonable expectation.

Yours sincerely,

The names below all belong to one of eight grades of membership available at the College:

1. Abbas, Talib
2. Adams, Alex
3. Adeniran, Richard
4. Ahmed, Khaldoon
5. Alachar, Mustafa
6. Almeida, Vasco
7. Alsaraf, Sara
8. Anderson, Helen
9. Antonova, Kristina
10. Askew, Elizabeth
11. Barber, Julia
12. Barker, Dave
13. Beverley, Kath
14. Bhandari, Sadgun
15. Billingsley, Michael
16. Blackman, Graham
17. Booya, Nisreen
18. Bose, Alpana Sokhey
19. Bracken, Patrick
20. Brown, Richard
21. Bruer Henen, Leah
22. Buston, Gemma
23. Calton, Tim
24. Cheetham, Anna
25. Chiasa, Marco
26. Chouhan, Viraj
27. Clapham, Miles
28. Clare, Adam
29. Collins, Paul
30. Connell, Frankie
31. Cranshaw, Joanna
32. Creed, Michael
33. Cresswell, Gill
34. Daniels, Jordan
35. Daoud, Ramy
36. Das, Preety
37. Debelle, Alice
38. Dewhurst, Thomas
39. Doherty, Michelle
40. Dorrington, Sarah
41. Dosani, Sabina

42. Double, Duncan
43. Douglas, Chris
44. Downer, Simon
45. Dudha, Shivani
46. Edleman, Katrin
47. Edwards, Allison
48. Edwards, Peter
49. Fairweather, Susannah
50. Fernando, Suman
51. Fletcher-Rogers, Jessica
52. Fredential, Robert
53. Freeth, Rachel
54. Gadelrab, Romayne
55. Gibson, Nataly
56. Gilberthorpe, Tom
57. Gillespie, Abby
58. Goldberg, David
59. Gothard, Samantha
60. Green, Lucinda
61. Greenall, Toby
62. Hadi, Zahara
63. Hagon, Alison
64. Haigh, Rex
65. Hameed, Yasir
66. Herriot, Kate
67. Heydari, Hamideh
68. Hilvering, Pieter
69. Hoare, Amanda
70. Hollins, Kathryn
71. Imeson, Dorrie
72. Jadhav, Sushrut
73. Jayapaul, Prem
74. Jebreel, Amy
75. Jhon Miguel Vecida
76. Johnson, Bob
77. Junaid, Elizabeth
78. Jyothi, A
79. Kalkan, Cemile
80. Kanser, Rehana
81. Karadimova, Rodi
82. Kareem, Oladimeji
83. Kharbeteng, Allen
84. Loughton, Estelle
85. Leadholm, Anne Katrine
86. Lefevre, Dianne
87. Levick, Kathleen
88. Lewis, Bryony

89. Littlewood, Roland
90. Low, Alexis An Yee
91. Love, Madeleine
92. Maculay, Alex
93. Marsh, Will
94. Madhusudhan, Krishna
95. Maitra, Begum
96. Martell, Johnny
97. Martindale, Brian
98. McNamara, Daniel
99. Meechan, Christopher
100. Mittal, Vishal
101. Moir, Rachel
102. Moncrieff, Joanna
103. Moore, William
104. Moses, Anene
105. Murphy, Roberta
106. Mutch, Jennifer
107. Muthukrishnan, Sabarigirivasan
108. Nutting, Tom
109. Obi, Adaora
110. Oduoye, Koye
111. Page, Anthony
112. Parsons, Megan
113. Peutz, Margaret
114. Perera, Alfred
115. Pillay, Mini G
116. Pini, Pino
117. Pitt, Alice
118. Puri, Davina
119. Pushkar, Piyush
120. Read, Tim
121. Reza, Hashim
122. Rodger, James
123. Rodgers, Hannah
124. Rodin, Ian
125. Romme, Marius
126. Ruegger, Josh
127. Rukyia Hassan
128. Ryckaert, Celine
129. Saeed, Razan
130. Salter, Sandra
131. Seltzer, Abby
132. Shah, Nisha
133. Selos, Camilla
134. Sengupta, Samrat
135. Senthil, F.S.Sophia

136. Seshadri, Madhavan
137. Sheppard, Leyland
138. Sherlock, Clive
139. Siapra, Marianna
140. Siddique, Umer
141. Singh Deo, Ripudaman
142. Soltani, Niksa
143. Stevens, Nicola
144. Stockmann, Tom
145. Summerfield, Derek
146. Summers, Alison
147. Sundaresh, Sushma
148. Talwar, Amina
149. Telford, Katherine
150. Tsapas, Thanos
151. Thomas, Philip
152. Timimi, Sami
153. Turner, Francesca
154. Turri, Maria
155. Tyler, Maheera
156. Verghese, Joseph
157. Viall, Ambrose
158. Viola, Sebastiao
159. Wallace, Jeremy
160. Willie, Susanne
161. Windgassen, Eric
162. Wong Hui Min, Sarah
163. Wright, Rachel
164. Xia, Grace
165. Zinkler, Martin
166. Zhang, Shuo