

## **ASA Statement on Human Rights and the Application and Practice of Sociology**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the fundamental dignity of all human beings and their equal and inalienable rights as “the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.” The Universal Declaration also calls upon all peoples, nations, and social institutions to teach respect for human rights, and to work for their progressive realization.

The American Sociological Association’s mission is to serve sociologists in their work, advance sociology as a science and profession, and promote the contributions and use of sociology to society. In keeping with this mission, the American Sociological Association supports the application of sociology to human rights: in teaching about human rights and human rights violations, in conducting rigorous empirical analysis of the complex social problems that too frequently form a barrier to the realization of basic rights, and in using sociological findings to inform institutional arrangements and policies that can promote human flourishing and advance human rights in the United States and abroad.

The American Sociological Association promotes the use of human rights principles as a guide for sociological activity—including research, teaching, practice and service.

The American Sociological Association defends the human rights of sociologists, including the right to engage in research, with freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of association, and freedom of movement.

The American Sociological Association strives to use the full range of knowledge and skills embedded in our discipline to advance the cause of human rights worldwide, according to the highest ethical standards, with respect for the right of all people to participate in and benefit from sociology.