

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

STATEMENT ON JANUARY 6, 2021 RIOTING AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL



VISION STATEMENT:

A world where all people
participate in meaningful
activities to optimize their life
experience.

MISSION STATEMENT:

OTAC is the collective voice that
serves, promotes, and supports
the profession of occupational
therapy and its practitioners.



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1/12/21

The illegal and violent attack on the United States Capitol by domestic terrorists, white supremacists, and traitors to our democracy has no place in our country or profession. The Occupational Therapy Association of California (OTAC) condemns this past week's illegal actions and any actions of a similar nature that attempt to undermine and overturn a free and fair election and disenfranchise people's right to participate in the election process. The efforts to interfere with the democratic process is a form of occupational injustice. In addition, the response to the attack further illustrates, as United States Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris has described, that there are two systems of justice based on race. OTAC continues to assert "racial justice is occupational justice," and OTAC is dedicated to enacting sustained change toward a more just society.

OTAC's mission, vision, values, and code of ethics speak to our commitment and expectation of the Association and its members to demonstrate integrity, inclusivity, professionalism, ethical behavior in all aspects of conduct, in service to the profession, and to those who receive our services. The American Occupational Therapy Association's Code of Ethics (2020) provides aspirational values to guide practice, as well as enforceable standards of conduct, including language that occupational therapy practitioners shall "not engage in actions that are uncivil, intimidating, or bullying or that contribute to violence (p. 26)." Furthermore, the California Board of Occupational Therapy Regulations state, "Occupational therapy practitioners shall report to the Board any acts committed by another occupational therapy practitioner that they have reason to believe are unethical or illegal in practice, education, research, billing, or documentation, and shall cooperate with the Board by providing information, documentation, declarations, or assistance as may be allowed by law." With that, should OTAC be made aware of any California practitioner or student involved in any violation of the AOTA Code of Ethics, the California Board of Occupational Therapy Regulations, or other pertinent laws, OTAC will recommend and support full investigation and accountability by the American Occupational Therapy Association, the California Board of Occupational Therapy, and appropriate legal authorities, respectively.

AOTA 2020 Occupational Therapy Code of Ethics. (2020). *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 74(Supplement_3). doi:10.5014/ajot.2020.74s3006

California, S. (n.d.). California Code of Regulations. Retrieved January 12, 2021, from https://www.bot.ca.gov/board_activity/laws_regs/cc_regulations.shtml#4170

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