

Discussion Points for Floor Motion 7:

Motion: I move to create a BIPOC working group to acknowledge the effects of racism and generational racial trauma on ACAs. Like the spiritual inclusion working group, this group would develop guidance for the literature committee and broader fellowship regarding issues that disproportionately impact BIPOC members and collaborate with the literature committee in the evaluation of completed projects and revision of other ACA literature to ensure issues of racial equity and racial trauma are addressed effectively. (Alaska -WEB0150)

Discussion Points Summary

- I am from the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq and ACA has changed me and shown me how to live according to the Seven Sacred Teachings. I am ever grateful for this and there are so many of us that need that.
- One, I am concerned that the BIPOC group is not feeling included in the literature community, the literature programs right now, and I am wondering if that is the case? Secondly, will other marginalized groups be included in this committee? Is it that it would be a committee that would not report to the board, but to the Fellowship? What other marginalized groups will be included and are you not feeling welcomed now on the literature committee?
- I am in favor of the spirit of this proposal to bring forward the lived experiences of BIPOC and other marginalized groups. My concern is one of structure. We have BIPOC representation on the Literature evaluation committee with the person who proposed this motion - I see this fitting better with the Spiritual Inclusion working group. The role proposed here to review literature by this working group suggests that it needs to be a standing committee and I'm concerned about that aspect.
- The principle makes sense, but you're excluding a lot of other marginalized groups based on the description - BIPOC. There are a lot of different countries and there will be a lot of marginalized groups and trying to make this more inclusive of every marginalized group I think is important, not just the one you identified. Also the structure is confusing in how this will work.
- Since 2020 there have been a steadily increasing number of new BIPOC who are ACAs and who will continue to need ACA literature that appropriately serves their needs instead of the current draft of *Getting Started*, which is authored by ACA's core of exclusively European ancestry.

The complete lack of ACA literature that addresses intergenerational and racial trauma is a problem that will negatively impact BIPOC people and people of the global minority who are ACAs. The establishment of a BIPOC working group specifically addresses racial trauma.

- I agree with the proposal as it is written and support it. My only experience is that ACA has not only helped me achieve emotional sobriety, but being part of BIPOC meetings, I wasn't a fan of the terminology, the word, the title. But I definitely agree with the working group. I did not have a space to uncover the institutionalized and internalized racism as I was born into a country that didn't have many people that looked like me. I agree with the platform.
- This is a very North American name "BIPOC" -racial discrimination occurs outside of North America. Discrimination happens for many reasons and traumatizes us. Because I happen to be of European descent, it doesn't mean that I did not experience generational discrimination. For me, this feels like too narrow a focus. I believe we need to address diversity without any argument, but it needs to be different countries, cultures, circumstances and discrimination of all kinds.
- I do not know why this is a motion - does it need delegate approval for a group to be formed? Can it be developed independently or in tandem with the Literature committee? I would like to know the basis of this claim of the last sentence "Literature being produced without BIPOC contributions." Is the literature being produced without BIPOC contribution?
- I am in favor of this motion as it is written. I understand there are other types of discrimination. When I see people of color being shot down because of politics, voices of POC have been stifled for centuries. They deserve to have a committee they deserve to finally have a voice. It's not political, it's a crime against humanity.
- I do support this and have concerns previously mentioned and would like to see collaboration with literature evaluation and for this to be more global. I would like to have liaisons to the Literature Evaluation and Language subcommittee for collaboration since we need more BIPOC members in Literature.
- I am very grateful for this motion, I support it wholeheartedly. It is past time and it is past due. A similar motion that I put forth in another program requesting space for Blackness, and it was traumatic for a lot of members; but we talked it out and it was passed. There were fears that the motion

would destroy the program, but the motion increased participation and had a positive impact.

- I am not in favor as sometimes these attempts to be inclusive or draw attention to marginalized groups can make things worse. In the spiritual inclusion group some people are getting alienating so I see this as divisive to our group.
- I am a European born living in North America. I am grateful to the BIPOC community and what they have taught me. I really support them having their own space, and I love that this motion is a different kind of working group. I have learned that not all cultures and structures are like mine. and I see it more as a consulting group.
- I agree with this motion and I am part of Literature Evaluation -and this will be an experience of strength and help with our recovery for all matters, not just literature.
- The first sentence, “ I move to create a BIPOC working group to acknowledge the effects of racism and generational racial trauma on ACAs” - I am reading that BIPOC is only being used as a reference point and not a title of this working group. I am in favour of this motion.
- I suggest that the motion maker have an option of a friendly amendment of the impact of being marginalized whether it is a US or global identified minority.
- One, I really like what a delegate said, asking if we really need to get this passed. Let’s not ask for permission where we don’t need to. Secondly, love it, let me know how I can support and be an ally. I would love it if this were a committee of the conference reporting and responsible directly to the Conference.
- I am not in favor as I would rather see changes to come from within and making a group like this doesn’t require permission from anybody. Members are free to form groups. Groups could start to isolate from each other because they are different. We need to have change come from inside out and let more BIPOC members join committees that already exist and help formulate new literature which is suitable for everyone and more inclusive for other people that experience trauma through discrimination. Also, it does not represent all discriminated populations.
- Proposer: I want to clear up a couple of things. In response to, “why is it a floor motion?” This isn’t a meeting or discussion group. I am bringing this for conference approval because currently how literature has been

developed up until now, there hasn't been an invitation to come in to help. There is a new piece of literature coming out that doesn't really include experiences of racial trauma and this piece of literature will be used for the next 10 years and will introduce people coming into ACA and will not have recognition of generational trauma. This is not right.

- I support this group yet could I be part of this group? Would I be discriminated against to not be able to be part of this group?
- I strongly support this motion, I am getting a feeling of a notion of Black Lives Matter and All lives matter as a counterpoint to this. Discussing racism and intergenerational racism is uncomfortable. I believe our culture is an addictive culture and this is part of it
- I support this motion as I have experienced a lot of discrimination as a gay man and I hope we can work together.
- This is my first ABC and as a black woman it is very uncomfortable being in this space and this motion is the first ray of hope that my voice will be heard and people who have voices similar to my experiences will have a seat at the table.
- I support this motion as living on Treaty 9 Territory in Northern Ontario, where I do there has been many years of generational trauma - we need to understand where each other is coming from - so I really support this.
- I feel the trauma of this, I know the literature people have asked people to give their experiences that they want to include, so I hear that the literature community wants to include this, so why? People that want this change are not helping WSO. The only way I can see this being of value is to hand it over to the WSO committee that's already working on this.