

Statement on Trump Ban on "Diversity" Training and Critical Race Theory:

Critical Race Scholars in Social Work (CRSSW) is a national network of over 100 scholars that are committed to confronting the United States' legacy of White supremacy and racism to create a more just society for all. CRSSW is appalled at the Trump administration's recent ban on training that includes critical race theory (CRT), White privilege, and suggestions that the United States is inherently a racist country. This order, elaborated upon in a two-page document from the Office of Management and Budget director Russell Vought, eliminates vital training in federal agencies and wrongly characterizes these trainings as fostering "division and resentment within the federal workforce." To the contrary, CRT and Ethnic Studies are evidenced by a body of literature as effectively improving student outcomes. These perspectives address systemic and institutional racism and other oppression and challenge White Supremacy at a structural level. Federal employees impact the vital systems that make our country run, such as housing, education, veteran affairs, healthcare, etc. Without adequate attention to building capacity to identify past and current practices that sustain oppression, existing racial disparities in these systems will continue to flourish. Social work is at the forefront of this work and has recently reiterated its commitment by establishing "eliminate racism" as the latest "grand challenge" facing the field. CRSSW will continue to work towards this goal and strongly condemns this most recent attack on intellectualism and proven methods of addressing racism in the workplace.

Signed by,

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***The Critical Race Scholars in Social Work (CRSSW) network was formed to provide a space for social work faculty and practitioners to engage in the praxis of Critical Race Theory (CRT). Originating in legal studies, CRT has provided a relevant, social justice-oriented framework for research, theory, pedagogy and practice in social work. Members of CRSSW center race in their work, consider intersectionality of oppression and develop innovative methods for self-critique, empowerment and community building. For those interested in joining our listserv, please send your (name, email) request to: crssocialwork@gmail.com.**