



# International Academy of Mediators

Special Board Meeting – June 13, 2020 – 11 AM  
Regarding Black Lives Matter Statement

Jon Fidler called the meeting to order.

In attendance were: President Jon Fidler, President-Elect Michel Kallipetis, Vice President Steve Paul, Treasurer Larry Rute, Past President Chuck Doran; Governors Joyce Mitchell, Jody Sin, Jonathan Lloyd-Jones, Claude Amar, Denise Madigan and Jeff Hand; ex officious Lee Jacobson, Gene Moscovitch; and Executive Director and Richard Rejino.

J Fidler summarized a memo to the board about a request by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to make a statement addressing the Black Lives Matter movement and stated two issues to be decided:

1. Is it appropriate for an international organization of neutrals to post something on their website about the Black Lives Matter issue? It raises questions of politization of the issue and issues with respect to neutrality. On the other hand, the IAM promote peaceful discussion and human rights.
2. If it is appropriate, what should the wording be? And that if a statement is to be posted, should it be either from the Diversity Committee's or from Michel Kallipetis.

Michel Kallipetis suggested that if IAM makes a statement that it be universal, not judgmental, and should address the oppression of all minorities. Discussion included: that a statement should be in line with the values and conduct of mediators; that language should be universal; that IAM is should not engage in politically charged issues; that any statement should be followed up by action; what is the objective for putting up the statement, should the members be included in the decision; that making a statement is not outside of IAM's mission and goals.

**A motion was made and seconded to publish a universal, non-judgmental statement as drafted by Michel Kallipetis to address the recognition of the oppression of minorities of the world on the IAM website for public consumption by Monday, June 15, 2020 by 5 p.m.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

J Mitchell, who serves on the Diversity & Inclusion committee, stated that it will gladly accept the statement as decided by the board. The board agreed that a President's message should be sent to the membership that includes the decisions of the board and a final internal statement that is finalized by the Division and Inclusion Committee.

The board decided C Doran, P Van Osselaer and Richard Rejino will design what the website will look like to reflect the Black Lives Matter issue.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 AM.