



Statement Affirming and Expanding the Commitment of the American Sociological Association to Human Rights

**Adopted by the Council of the
American Sociological Association
August 12, 2009**

Human rights and the violation of human rights are embedded in societies and communities which are fundamental subjects of sociological study. Sociological research includes the study of human rights achievements (such as women's equality and racial justice) and human rights violations (such as homelessness and racial profiling) as well as the concept of human rights and freedoms that is socially evolving both nationally and internationally. This statement affirms and expands the commitment of the American Sociological Association to human rights and freedoms enunciated in the 2005 ASA statement on human rights issued on the occasion of the Association's Centenary.¹

The American Sociological Association recognizes the full equality and dignity of all peoples and supports the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, people with disabilities, and vulnerable children and adults.

It recognizes the rights of all peoples to social and personal security; to gender equality; to freedom from discrimination; to join trade unions and otherwise assemble; to an adequate standard of living, including a decent job and a just wage, health care, housing, food and water, education; and to a sustainable environment.

The American Sociological Association recognizes the freedom of all peoples to participate in and to benefit from scientific advancement and reaffirms the principles of ethical scientific conduct embodied in the Association's Code of Ethics. These principles include respecting the rights, dignity, and worth of all peoples and striving to serve the public good, including the advancement of human rights and freedoms.

¹ http://www.asanet.org/cs/root/leftnav/governance/issue_statements/statement_on_human_rights