



The Illinois Psychological Association Social Responsibility Section, “SRS” uses the APA’s System for keeping the balance in guild issues and social responsibility issues, the “**APA Advocacy Priorities**”. We summarize them here:

APA Advocacy Priorities – 2021

“The American Psychological Association (APA) strategic priorities are rooted in equity, diversity and inclusion. In keeping with these strategic priorities, the APA’s advocacy priorities encompass the guiding principles of non-discrimination, health-equity for underserved and vulnerable populations, and health promotion across the life-span and settings. Keeping the guiding principles at the forefront of advocacy for psychology insures the greatest impact on the many challenges facing society.”

The APA then outlines the following nomenclature in considering social issues:

1- Priorities Unique to APA:

Examples:

- Access to health services, including mental and behavioral health services.
- Funding basic and applied psychological research.
- General applied psychology promotion.
- Psychology Education and training financing.
- Psychology workforce development.
- Reimbursement and scope of practice.

2- Priorities Where APA Makes a Significant Contribution:

Examples:

- Application of psychological science to Pre-K, K through 12, and higher education.
- Violence and suicide prevention.
- Crisis intervention response teams & programs, police-medical-social science teams.

3- Priorities in Collaboration with Coalitions and Partner Organizations:

Examples:

- Climate Change.
 - Discrimination.
 - Immigration.
 - Protect and strengthen safety net programs.
 - Criminal Justice Reform.
 - Future of Work.
 - Health equality for underserved populations.
 - Health promotion and prevention through-out lifespan and settings.
 - Science infrastructure and regulatory environment.
 - Using Science to inform socio-political practices.
 - Substance use disorders including opioid and other drug epidemics.
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This tri-part sorting of psychology's role in issues of social responsibility seems very useful in general and can guide the IPA in balancing guild and social responsibility activities and resources.

There is a lot of Illinois Legislation and Policy on topics such as "*Police/Justice Reform*", "*Climate Change*", "*Racial Justice*", "*Gender Justice*", "*Closing Income Disparity*", and more. Therefore, we urge SRS Members and all IPA Members to follow the IPA Legislative Committee's postings and calls for action.

The SRS frequently posts resources such as TEDx Talks, YouTube Documentaries, Webinars, Articles, Book References and Social-Justice Rallies and fundraising-benefits on the IPA List-Serve. The SRS hosts seminars and educational events focused on what we refer to as our goal of "ARC" (ARC's original use by Jamar Tisby in 2019 in his Book "*The Color of Compromise: The American Church's Complicity in Racism*"): SRS works to INCREASE IPA Member's:

- **A**wareness of the research-supported, often complex and messy data on Social Issues
- **R**elationships with each other and allied organizations representing stake-holders in Social Issues.
- **C**ommitment to ongoing pro-social change support of allied organizations representing stake-holders in Social Issues.

SRS agrees with Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. that "*the ARC of history bends slowly toward justice*". We will work to help all IPA members become "better ancestors", following the arc of justice in our life-times.