



ALL LIVES CANNOT MATTER UNTIL BLACK LIVES MATTER

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“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” These are wise words from the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In other words, racism should not be tolerated in any form or manner. You’ve heard the saying “one bad apple ruins the whole bunch before”, right? Well, that’s the case in this situation. If racism prevails in any place, it can be and will be detrimental to the places where racism does not exist. It can be compared to a virus, which spreads from person to person.

After reading The American Speech Language Hearing Association’s initial statement, I was overwhelmed with a plethora of negative emotions. There were so many words put together, yet no clear stance was made. The lack of clarity began to make me feel uncertain about whether or not ASHA is for or against racism and systematic oppression. There cannot be an in between. I sensed a lot of hesitation after reading that statement. The American Speech Language Hearing Association specializes in communication; however, they failed to communicate their stance on racism effectively. To be quite frank, the lack of clarity is a message within itself. If it is so difficult to communicate your stance on racism, then

I am forced to believe that you may not be against it. Out of the countless words that were put together, none of those words were put together to condemn racism. None of those words proclaimed that Blacks lives matter. None of those words confirmed the solidarity between ASHA and the Black community. As stated before, there was no clarity whatsoever.

The statement failed to speak out against racism. It was very insulting. I expected better. Due to ASHA’s failure to successfully articulate their stance on racism, a second statement was made. The first statement should have been clear enough. There are various resources ASHA could have used before making a statement. Interviews could have been held with the black community in efforts to have a more diverse input. A virtual roundtable discussion could have been organized to express thoughts and feelings. To say the least, I am extremely disappointed being that this is the organization I am associated with. All lives cannot matter until Black lives matter.

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