



IN RESPONSE TO ASHA

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Racism is unfair, unequal, and it could even be considered unethical. There is not an association in the world that should tolerate racism. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) initial stance against racism was subtle and misleading. As an African American, I was shocked at how ASHA issued the statement regarding racism as well as the lack of thought that was put into the statement. They left out a lot of information and their follow-up statement did not provide much clarification.

Upon reading the statement, I expected more. I wondered how they expect diversity in the field, when they do not even know how to properly articulate their stance on racism. Their response only made me furious, upset, and overlooked. Does ASHA not fully understand how we as African Americans feel? Do they not understand the challenges we face on a daily basis just because of our skin color? How are we supposed to be proud of our profession and its governing body when it fails to properly take heed to its African American members? We deserve more as African Americans in our field especially since we are already outnumbered and overlooked.

ASHA wholeheartedly failed to make a logical and clear statement. They failed their students, professionals, and even themselves. We constantly hear "All Lives Matter," and we understand that. However, we as African Americans understand that.

We are not saying all lives do not matter, it's just a matter of Black Lives Matter, too. We love the field of speech-language pathology and all that it entails. However, we would love for our profession to love us the same way.

Instead of the lack of thought put into their statement, ASHA should have included more a diverse input before releasing their statement. They could have consulted with various minority groups and asked for their opinions and feelings about the events that took place. This would have given ASHA more insight and could have allowed them to release a better statement. They could have also sent out a rough draft to a few individuals of minority groups and asked for their hand in assisting them with coming out with a statement that would have had a more positive effect and actually included input from people of color. All in all, ASHA simply should have thoroughly analyzed their statement and thought about the members of the association before releasing their statement. It showed that ASHA put little thought or effort into the statement and it lacked diversity and compassion.

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