



Dear ALAVTN members and veterinary community,

The Academy of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians and Nurses has been struggling to put into words a sincere expression of solidarity for those fighting and committing to change against racism. Recent protests and outrage spurred by the latest senseless and egregious murders of black citizens of the United States by those that are supposed to protect all citizens are the voices of those that have gone so long without being heard. These appalling murders are neither new to communities of color nor regrettably, likely not the last. It would also be insensitive of the ALAVTN as a community of international members not to acknowledge the historical and global health crisis of racism and prejudices still rampant in society today, and in the way laws are written and enforced.

As we are now in the middle of PRIDE month, we are also conscious of those in the LGBTQIAP community. Many are still unaware that the origins of PRIDE month were not an excuse to party and have fun, but as a protest for equality and rights to live as any other citizen. Rights that are being challenged and stripped away as you read.

While a letter such as this one is a nice gesture, it is also not enough to just say or write something. Not only is silence a form of violence when our friends, family, and colleagues are threatened and treated unequally, it is also a form of complicity to not actively change what we as an organization have the power to change. Starting today (6/15/2020) the Academy of Laboratory Animal Veterinary Technicians and Nurses will be adopting into its Policy & Procedures specific language further defining Article VIII, section 8.02 of the discipline section of our bylaws. The Academy will condemn and revoke veterinary technician or nurse specialty status from members that discriminate against others via acts, expressions, post's, speech or dissemination of discriminatory materials based on someone's race, ethnic identity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or gender identity.

While some may have a concern that such a stance is politically based, we counter. The inequity of human rights concerns and affects us all, one way or another, that we will not sit quietly on. The ALAVTN is committed to protecting our profession and all individuals that make it great. Diversity is beautiful. Embrace it.

Sincerely,

The ALAVTN Board of Directors

For more information please visit our website at ALAVTN.org or email us at alavtn@gmail.com