

IUAES



Endorsement of the manifesto by the Brazilian Anthropology Association (ABA)

The Brazilian Anthropology Association has raised its concerns regarding several issues, that although illustrated with the help of examples in the manifesto, nevertheless, are relevant for many parts of the world. The pandemic and the dire situation created by it globally has revealed cracks and fissures in the social fabric, causing the deliberate neglect of vulnerable sections of society, who face discrimination based on inherited prejudices and situational stimulants. Although such discriminations vary from society to society, yet there are some sections like women, LGBTQ, racial and religious minorities and indigenous communities who are continuously facing marginalization and denied the rights to life and humanity.

The Brazilian academy points out that the burden of lacks and inadequacies that come in the wake of medical crises is quickly transferred to those already vulnerable, converting the medical crises to a social one. In some examples, there is enough evidence to indicate larger numbers of Covid related deaths among the Black, Hispanic and migrant populations as they remain at the end of the line when scarce facilities are doled out. Similar situations are nearly global, especially in countries already divided along many fault lines of ‘othering’.

There are other critical factors such as the denial of the epidemic, a non-scientific and obscurantist approach in dealing with the situation as if it did not exist. This attitude taken at the level of apex leadership can lead to widespread disaster as exemplified in the case of many countries in North America, South America and elsewhere.

The coming of the vaccine has highlighted further the inequality and cleavages, not only within countries but between them. At the same time, the global situation reveals that since the virus is not discriminatory in the same way as humans, controlling it at certain points and not at others is not going to help anyone. From president to prime ministers, doctors and health care workers, to drivers and cleaners, the virus spares no one.

It is only by accepting a scientific approach, by eliminating social discrimination and keeping in mind the equality of all humans, irrespective of their social and political locations, there is any hope of a global control of the pandemic. The WAU Steering Committee supports the ABA in saying, “BASTA-enough” to all these forms of inequality and discrimination, in providing care, facility and medicines.

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**Steering Committee
World Anthropological Union (WAU)**

