

### Statement of Attitude

This policy is intended to enable association members to express their views to the public. It is intended to let us reach consensus as efficiently as possible while promoting a spirit of collegial communication within the AAA itself. It is not intended as an arbitrary rule, it is collegial.

### Policy and Procedure for Statements

As a matter of AAA policy, ordinarily only the Executive Director and the President are authorized to speak on AAA's behalf. However, members, committees, task forces, and Sections may recommend position statements that are consistent with AAA's mission and, in the view of the originator, ought to be amplified by the full weight of AAA's reputation. A set of procedural steps is necessary to ensure statements issued in AAA's name and directed to audiences outside the AAA represent as broad a consensus of AAA members as possible, reflect relevant anthropological scholarship, and are not inimical to the AAA's interests.

### Procedures

The Executive Board has approved the following procedures for considering requests by AAA members and units to issue letters and advocacy and policy statements in AAA's name. In the cases where a Section, interest group, committee, commission, or task force is involved, a draft statement will need to be approved by that body before being submitted to the AAA Executive Director. The AAA Executive Director will review the statement according to the procedure described herein. The Executive Director will then consult with the AAA President, EB officers, and AAA's legal counsel as needed before statements are forwarded to the addressees or published on the AAA website. In most cases, advocacy and policy statements will be given expedited review and signed by the President (or their designee) or returned to the signatories by the AAA President within two weeks of their submission to the AAA Office.

1) **Submission Procedure.** Requests should be sent to the AAA Executive Director ([aas@americananthro.org](mailto:aas@americananthro.org)) and the Communications Department ([jmartin@americananthro.org](mailto:jmartin@americananthro.org)). They will notify the President, the Executive Board Officers, MPAAC, and Sections with knowledge on the issue. It is important to have this standard way of submitting proposals in order to ensure that all proposals receive the same timely and appropriate review. Proposals sent in unexpected ways are more likely to be lost. The link for sending proposals is on the Public Statements webpage found on the AAA website. It can be accessed after logging in (for security).

b) Those submitting requests should indicate whether they want the request to receive expedited review. Expedited review will be faster, but if it is not possible to reach agreement with minimal consultation the statement will be returned to the requesting individual or section.

2) **Contents.** The correspondence should contain as much of the following information as possible:

- a) Brief summary of the issue.
- b) Brief history, if any, of relevant AAA positions or advocacy, statements, or resolutions, as well as those of other social science / humanities associations or other relevant organizations, if known.

- c) List of other groups supporting the effort or cause (with phone and email contact information).
  - d) If the position statement is originating from outside AAA, and AAA is being asked to add its name as a signatory or endorser, whether the originating source has any flexibility regarding the wording of a statement.
  - e) Phone and email contact information for lead advocate/commission or committee working on the issue/concern and
  - f) Contact information for qualified outside experts, if appropriate.
  - g) Evidence that the proposed statement has the backing of the unit originating the request, where appropriate.
  - h) Response deadline and reason why response is needed by this date.
  
  - i) Follow-up plans or description of next steps, where appropriate.
  - j) Brief appendices, where appropriate, including reference documents, bibliography of published articles, etc. demonstrating the supporting scholarship.
- 3) **Review.** The following processes are reflected in the Diagram of Procedures to assist in clarifying the workflow.
- a) Once a request is received, the President or Executive Director will seek advice from the MPAAC, Sections, and other AAA members as appropriate. The routing for most topics will be to MPAAC.
  - b) The MPAAC will offer a prompt, informed assessment of the proposed position statement. If the issue is relevant, strategic, and the proposed responses are actionable, MPAAC may provide suggestions including phrasing and the overall direction of the statement. MPAAC does not decide whether to issue the statement. MPAAC may recommend additional reviewing bodies. For expedited reviews, if MPAAC cannot reach a conclusion at this point regarding what review is needed, the proposal will be returned to the Communication Department, who may end the process or return the proposal to the authors.
  - c) For ordinary reviews, if MPAAC does not have relevant expertise among their members, MPAAC will try to identify it elsewhere in the AAA and refer the Communication Department to them.
  - d) In requests for expedited review where timeliness is extremely important, AAA may issue statements based on the discretion of the AAA President and Executive Director. The AAA President and Executive Director may request advice from either the AAA Officers or the overall Executive Board, depending on need. AAA staff will distribute the final statement to the appropriate audiences and notify the membership that such distribution has been completed.