



### **WHY DEVELOP A PROCESS FOR AAA TO ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENTS?**

In response to concerns from members and sections, the executive board commissioned a working group to assess the statement procedures process. The working group recommended a task force develop tools to streamline the statement review process. The executive board accepted the recommendation and determined that a task force was needed to establish an official pathway for membership to request that position statements be released to the public by AAA. Historically, requests were channeled through diverse routes, including, but not limited to:

- Committee for Human Rights which was absorbed by the current Members' Programmatic, Advisory, and Advocacy Committee (MPAAC)
- Direct requests to the AAA Executive Board
- Rapid Response Network

### **GOALS OF THE PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT TASK FORCE?**

The task force guided by the Report on the AAA Public Statements Procedure, discussions with various AAA stakeholders, crowdsourced information on past "processes," and with the assistance of AAA administration, aimed to meet the following objectives:

1. Develop an organized and consistent workflow for submitting requests for AAA to release public statements on pressing issues.
2. Create a process that is ideally timely and able to be initiated rapidly.
3. Codify the need for consultation of AAA sections, interest groups, committees, and general counsel prior to release of a public statement.

### **WHO CAN SUBMIT A STATEMENT?**

Any member of AAA can submit a request following the formalized workflow. Draft statements or suggested language for statements can also be submitted with the request, along with additional information outlined in the procedure. Leadership within AAA organizations or interest groups may submit a request on behalf of a section/interest group (with that section's approval).

### **CAN AN AAA ORGANIZATION ISSUE A STATEMENT ON ITS OWN?**

Any section/interest group can issue a statement, but if it does not go through the official AAA process, then it must include the following disclaimer:

"This statement represents the view of the members of [name of section or sections]. It should not be construed as representing the American Anthropological Association as a whole. The American Anthropological Association is a voluntary, non-profit, scholarly association. Membership is worldwide. It has diverse sections representing specialized interests within the field."

### **WHERE CAN THE OFFICIAL PROCEDURES BE FOUND?**

We encourage the executive boards of AAA sections and interest groups to circulate the procedures and their flowchart to its membership, and we hope this simplifies and improves AAA's ability to respond to burgeoning issues in our global community. These procedures can be found on the Public Statements webpage on the AAA website.