

**FREE LIVE WEBINAR**

## **The Counselor's Role in Addressing Systemic Racism-Related Trauma**



Recent events sparking increased awareness and attention to systemic racism-related trauma have inspired the **International Association for Counselling (IAC)** and **American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA)** to collaborate on a complimentary four-hour webinar designed to equip counselors across the world with knowledge and tools for addressing systemic racism-related trauma.

The webinar will consist of presentations by three international experts in the counseling profession followed by a reaction panel of four international counselors.

*Seats are limited, so register now to avoid missing out on this landmark occasion commemorating IAC's and AMHCA's first joint event, free to members of both organizations\*!*

**Register by [Clicking Here!](#)**

**Date:** 5/19/21

**Time:** Vancouver, Canada: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm PDT  
Washington DC, USA: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm EDT  
London, England, UK: 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm IST  
Corresponding UTC: 15:00 – 19:00

### **Continuing Education (CE) Information:**

**IAC Continuing Education (CE) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Units:** This educational activity has been approved by the International Association for Counselling (IAC) Continuing Education Committee. Participants who complete all parts of the activity, and receive a certificate of attendance/completion, will qualify for four (4) IAC CE/CPD unit hours.

**\*This event is available to members of AMHCA ([www.amhca.org](http://www.amhca.org)) and IAC (<https://www.iac-irtac.org>) only. Non-members may join either organization to be eligible for attendance.**

## Hour #1

### **Title:**

Above and Beyond Allyship: Advocacy in Action

### **Description:**

In the past year, the spotlight on social injustice and oppression around the world paved the way for historically marginalized voices to be heard. Inequities, disparities, and discriminative practices were highlighted in all areas of society to include the counseling profession. In this presentation, Dr. Susan Branco, will provide pointed actionable items for professionals in three counseling domains: 1) counselor education, 2) counselor supervision and 3) counseling practice. Participants will be strongly encouraged to move from performative to active allies within their counseling community. Strategies for wellness maintenance to support active allyship will also be discussed.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will differentiate between performative versus active advocacy within the counseling profession
2. Participants will identify at least one active allyship strategy in counselor education, counselor supervision, and clinical practice
3. Participants will identify one personal wellness strategy to support their active engagement in advocacy.

### **Presenter:**



Susan F. Branco, Ph.D., LPC (VA), LCPC (MD), NCC, ACS, BC-TMH  
*Clinical Assistant Professor/Clinical Training Director*  
*The Family Institute at Northwestern University*

**Susan Branco, PhD, LPC**, is a transracial adoptee, adopted internationally from Colombia, South America. She is an advocate for increased adoption related research and training within counselor education and is passionate about improving mental health outcomes for transracially adopted persons. Susan is a Licensed Professional Counselor and clinical assistant professor in the clinical mental health master's program at the Family Institute at Northwestern University. She earned a PhD in counselor education and supervision, a post master's degree in marriage and family therapy, and a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling. For over 14 years she maintained an independent practice working with members of the adoption constellation. Her research interests include transracial adoption and mental health, Colombian adoption policy, and clinical training and supervision practices for counselors of Color. Susan is the recipient of the 2021 International Association for Marriage and Family Counselors' Outstanding Leadership Award, the 2019 National Board for Certified Counselors Foundation Excellence in Counselor Education and Supervision Bridging the Gap Award, the 2018 Excellence in Multicultural Teaching Award from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology, and is a 2014 Minority Fellowship Program awardee. For more information about Susan, including speaking engagements and peer reviewed publications, please visit her [website](#).

## Hour #2

### **Title:**

Active witnessing model for fighting racism and discrimination and initiating social change: A practical anti-discrimination skills training program and counsellors' roles

### **Description:**

This presentation will introduce participants to an overview of a witness-centred skills training program called *Anti-discrimination Response Training (A.R.T.)*. This program is based on the author's active witnessing model which examines the following four positions held by the observer of discrimination situations: (a) dis-witnessing, (b) passive witnessing, (c) active witnessing, and (d) ethical witnessing with social action. It will be emphasized that community maturation and societal change requires each member of a given community or society to break the silence of being a passive or indifferent bystander and to engage in "active witnessing" and on-going efforts for promoting social justice at individual and collective levels. The participants will have opportunities to learn and practise a sample set of active witnessing responses and to explore possible ways of implementing such skills in daily life. They will also explore counsellors' roles and responsibilities for promoting active witnessing and building a safe and inclusive social environment.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will learn a conceptual model of "active witnessing."
2. Participants will learn and practise witnessing skills for responding to hypothetical discrimination situations.
3. Participants will explore counsellors' roles and social responsibility for preventing discrimination and promoting social justice.

### **Presenter:**



Ishu Ishiyama, Ph.D.  
*Faculty of Education (Counselling Psychology Program)*  
*University of British Columbia, Canada*

**Dr. Ishu Ishiyama** is an associate professor and the coordinator of the cohort master's program in counselling psychology in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education, Faculty of Education, University of British Columbia. He supervises master's and doctoral students and conducts research in the areas of multicultural counselling, anti-discrimination training, and Asian psychotherapy. He is the developer of the Anti-discrimination Response Training (A.R.T.) Program and the active witnessing model which are used for leadership training in various educational and community settings.

## Hour #3

### **Title:**

The Role of Community as a Compulsory and Indispensable Intervention for eliminating Systemic Racism-related Psychological Trauma and its Effects on Mental Health and Brain Health.

### **Description:**

A short review of Systemic Racism and its related psychological trauma which has affected Mental Health and Brain Health of the members of the diaspora over centuries. Participants will learn about and become part of The Community Healing Network's Emotional Emancipation Circles, developed by CHN in collaboration with the Association of Black Psychologists and experience what can be done to reclaim the Mental Health and Brain Health of members of the Diaspora.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will learn what systemic-racism is and hear a short review of its history.
2. Participants will define diaspora and describe how psychological trauma affects mental health and brain health.
3. Participants will learn about the Community Healing Network (CHN), and experience its work for healing and wellness.

### **Presenter:**



Anna Maria Mora, M.Ed., MA  
*Regional Representative for Caribbean  
International Association for Counselling*

On July 17, 2017, I received an acceptance letter from President Dionne Mifsud, welcoming me to the IAC, after my application for "interim" Regional Member-Caribbean was accepted. The position became vacant because the previous member resigned. I occupied the position until the IAC's Moncton AGM, in May 2019. I was then elected the Regional Representative-Caribbean for a two-year term. I reside in the southernmost islands of the archipelago of Caribbean islands: Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean still has a very "distant" relationship with the idea and practice of Counselling. Counselling is not embraced as an activity which really makes a positive difference in citizens' lives. IAC's vision resonated with me. "A World where Counselling is Available to All" is a vision in which I firmly believe. I resigned from our Government Service as a Guidance Officer, on my return from Columbia University in New York, where I obtained my M. Ed., and M. A. in Counselling Psychology. Here, I learned that behaviour change is possible through the professional counselling interaction. On my return I founded Mariama Children's Museum & Teen Turf: The Counselling and Activity Center for Children and Adolescents. This community-based, non-profit organization has been in operation for 29 years and is largely self-funded. I worked at Secondary Schools for over 10 years before obtaining my degrees, worked at a Family Counselling Service titled "Families in Action" and with Employee Assistance Programmes. I also travelled the Caribbean working at what was needed to transform organizations and communities for the better. I have been a Past President of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Psychologists (TTAP), having served two (2) two-year terms of office. I am a long-standing member of a lobby group of TTAP, working to impress upon present and past Governments (over ten years) for a National Psychological Trauma Center. In Trinidad and Tobago, many of our citizens are victims of very traumatic events. I am also a regular columnist in our local newspapers about parenting issues and creating an awareness of the value of counselling. Since my involvement with IAC, I have also formed partnerships with the Caribbean College of Family Physicians (CCFP) and hope in this term to create a working relationship with PAHO/WHO- Trinidad and Tobago to assist with getting IAC's vision out to as many islands of the Caribbean as possible.

## Hour #4

### Title:

International Counselor Reaction Panel

### Description:

Four counselors who are members of IAC and AMHCA will participate in a moderated panel, processing the content of the previous three hours and engaging in an active dialogue about “take-home” messages from the presenters and how they can be applied in the counseling field.

### Panelists:



**Angele Moss-Baker, LPC, LMFT, MAC, DCMHS-COD, EAS-C**  
*President,  
American Mental Health Counselors  
Association*

**ANGELE MOSS-BAKER, LPC, LMFT, MAC, DCMHS-COD, EAS-C** is a licensed clinical mental health counselor with over 30 years of experience providing mental health and substance use treatment. She is sole proprietor and independent practitioner at Comprehensive Addiction & Psychological Services (CAPS) LLC, located in Washington DC. Moss-Baker is an advocate and ambassador for the ethical implementation of integrated treatment for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance related disorders. She is the Senior Behavioral Health Training Specialist at the DC Department of Behavioral Health, Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia, and President of the American Mental Health Counselors Association. Moss-Baker holds state, national and international recognition for the facilitation of scholarly presentations on a host of behavioral health and wellness topics, with special focus on integrated treatment and co-occurring disorders.



**Desiree Carlson**  
*Regional Representative for Latin America,  
International Association for Counselling*

**Desiree Carlson** is a psychotherapist with extensive professional experience. Desiree has developed and implemented a wide variety of therapeutic programs for youth, adults, men, women, singles, and couples. Desiree is a renowned national and international therapist, designer and instructor, who is skilled at facilitating seminars, workshops, trainings, and conferences, as well as providing individualized counselling services for individuals and groups. Desiree has experience of collaborating with executive leadership, community stakeholders, local government, and media to accomplish mutually beneficial goals and objectives. Desiree is licensed as a counsellor, psychotherapist, and skills coach. She joined the IAC Executive Council in May 2019, in order to bring connection and evolution to counselling in Latin American countries. Desiree has dedicated over 10 years to the development of a therapy without borders through a phenomenological perspective. Developed a therapeutic tourism program where families and groups combine therapeutic experiences with traveling and/or connection with nature to habilitate sacred and safe spaces for more connected relationships. In Cozumel, Mexico, Desiree runs a non-profit organization with her husband which develops ecological understanding and promotes recycling.



**William Borgen, Ph.D.**  
*President,  
International Association for Counselling*

William Borgen is a professor of Counselling Psychology and Head of the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, and Special Education at the University of British Columbia. Dr Borgen has conducted research and has developed programs in the area of life transitions and career development for several years. He is a registered psychologist in BC and Alberta. His work has been translated and adapted for use in Bhutan, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, and Sweden. In 2005 Dr Borgen was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Umea in Sweden for his leadership in the development of counsellor education in Sweden. Dr Borgen is a member of the Canadian Working Group on Evidence-Based Practice in Career Development, a group of researchers from six Canadian universities and the Canadian Career Development Foundation. Dr Borgen was elected to a four year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance in 2011.



**Napoleon Harrington, MA, LPC**  
*Founder/Therapist, Ambassador Counseling  
& Resource Group*

Since 2008 Napoleon has served as Founder/Therapist with Ambassador Counseling & Resource Group, a clinical mental health private practice counseling group that offers therapeutic services from focusing on addressing the inherent challenges of a broken family structure to individual mental health clinical intervention. He serves as an adjunct faculty Professor on topics related to psychology, mental health, and human services. He is also serving as President of the Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association. Napoleon has had many experiences that inspired him to develop his counseling, speaking and facilitation skills, to be a voice of courage for people facing a variety of fears and challenges. Napoleon has had multiple television appearances and been featured as a radio guest a variety of times to discuss counseling and psychology related topics. He has written multiple articles for National and local publications on topics related to mental health and emotional wellness.

