

Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
February 5th-6th, 2024
Virtual/Chicago, IL
SAA Draft Statement on Restrictions on DEI Work
(Prepared by Council Members Krystal Appiah & Alison Clemens)

Draft text

The Society of American Archivists acknowledges the difficulty archivists and other information workers have had thrust upon them with the passage of state-level legislative acts restricting diversity, equity, and inclusion work within public higher education. SAA further acknowledges the additional and compounded difficulty of such workers who themselves identify as being from diverse communities based on their race, ethnicity, sexuality, or gender.

SAA reaffirms the Society's dedication to diversity as one of its core values and emphasizes that archives workers of diverse identities and backgrounds -- whether or not they are presently members of SAA -- are valued members of our professional community. SAA stands in solidarity with archives workers in these states who continue to ensure that the historical record documents a wide diversity of perspectives on social, political, and intellectual issues, and we encourage archives workers outside of these states to educate themselves on these legislative restrictions and reach out to colleagues affected by them to offer support.

Undertaking diversity, equity, and inclusion work supports a core facet of our profession—to document and preserve the record of the broadest possible range of individuals, communities, governance, and organizations.

Next steps

- Send draft and questions to Council's Executive Committee
- Discuss draft with Issues and Advocacy Section
- Connect with RAAC and potentially with April K. Anderson-Zorn, who may be doing similar work for the CUA Section
- Ask Council to vote on statement

Questions

1. What, if any, actions do we want to consider encouraging? What is the line between support and encouraging political action?
2. How can we ensure that this statement is acknowledging and supporting workers in these states without potentially making them targets based on the statement?