

Land Acknowledgement (Abbreviated Version)

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) acknowledges, respects and thanks the original and present day Indigenous people of this land, whose sacred ties are forever enduring. CalSWEC is committed to holding ourselves and social workers accountable to respecting Indigenous values, culture, families and communities through the ways in which we practice, educate, and support the field of social work.

Land Acknowledgement

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) acknowledges the physical space it occupies at UC Berkeley sits on the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo speaking Ohlone people, the successors of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and other familial descendants of the Verona Band. CalSWEC acknowledges its work impacts individuals, communities, lands, and the ecosystems across the state of California, which is home to close to 200 Indigenous tribes.

We recognize that all communities across the state have, and continue to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land and waters. As contributors to California's ecological and social communities, it is vitally important that we not only recognize the history of the land on which we stand, but also, we recognize that Indigenous communities are alive and flourishing.

Although it is important to acknowledge the land, it is only a first step. We are all responsible and accountable for learning about and understanding the violence that Indigenous people and communities face. Allyship is a continuous process; it is also not a label one can give themselves but is demonstrated from our actions and commitment to standing in solidarity. CalSWEC is committed to working to hold ourselves and social workers accountable to these values through the ways in which we practice, educate, and support the field of social work. Our work must actively reflect these values in daily manifestations of the ways social work programs are defined, evaluated, and delivered.

We encourage all social workers, social work leaders and educators, and their organizations to speak out in deference to the lands they occupy in an effort to honor the ancestral territories that have been buried under centuries of colonization and development, with an eye to recognizing the Indigenous tribes who are the original and ongoing stewards of these lands. [Visit this link](#) to look up the differing tribal names based on their associations with your location. Utilizing language such as, "We acknowledge, respect and thank the Indigenous peoples who were the original occupants of this land and whose sacred ties are forever enduring" is a powerful mechanism to center justice and respect the history, ecology, and cultures of our environments.

To learn more about the history and cultures of the Indigenous communities of California, please visit [insert CalSWEC developed resource link here].

Portions of this land acknowledgement were adapted from the land acknowledgement that was co-created with the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and the UC Berkeley Native American Student Development, as well as Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group.

Notes:

- Offer a succinct version to use for presentations/events
- The original draft conflates a land acknowledgement and anti-racism statement. This new version only articulates the land acknowledgement. There should be a separate anti-racism statement.
- CalSWEC should develop a resource page to share more about Indigenous historical and present day experiences throughout the state. The link will be shared in the statement as indicated above.

Excerpts (with edits) to the pieces more relevant to a potential Anti-Racism Statement:

We acknowledge that this country and university was built on slavery and genocide. We condemn the past and present displacement of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. We condemn historical and continuing violence of the state and of the nation on Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color and of the Global Majority. We make this statement as we know that it is our responsibility to speak out, denounce, and stop the violence, systematic oppression and structural racism that permeates this country, which disproportionately impacts Indigenous and Black people and communities.

Some local organizations currently serving indigenous communities and doing anti-racist work are: American Indian Child Resource Center, Intertribal Friendship House, Native American Health Center, The East Oakland Collective, Black Organizing Project, Anti Police Terror Project, Causa Justa, Critical Resistance, to name a few. Please support these organizations or others doing this work by donating or getting involved.