

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ANALYTICAL PSYCHOLOGY
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ANALYTISCHE PSYCHOLOGIE
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE PSYCHOLOGIE ANALYTIQUE
ASSOCIAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DI PSICOLOGIA ANALITICA
ASOCIACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE PSICOLOGÍA ANALÍTICA

STATEMENT BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ANALYTICAL PSYCHOLOGY (IAAP) CONCERNING C.G. JUNG'S WRITINGS AND HIS DISCUSSION OF PERSONS OF AFRICAN HERITAGE, OTHER PERSONS OF COLOR AND INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

(1) The IAAP is the international professional organization responsible for the development and dissemination of approaches to analytical treatment and research that derive from the work of C.G. Jung (1875-1961). The IAAP has over 3,000 member analysts and is active in more than 30 countries.

(2) Discussions among various members of the IAAP have, for many years, engaged the issues raised by Jung's writings concerning Africans and persons of African heritage, as well as other populations of color including indigenous peoples. These aspects of Jung's work have caused significant disquiet, disappointment and often anger among the individuals and communities concerned, and in clinical, academic and cultural circles generally. Failure to address these issues directly influences the perception of analytical psychology, and creates an environment that members of these populations may understandably consider hostile. These circumstances require both personal and institutional acknowledgment and the implementation of processes aimed at mitigating the negative impact of these aspects of the history of analytical psychology.

(3) We very much doubt that contemporary members of the IAAP share the language, imagery and evaluations of Africans, persons of African heritage and other populations of color that one can find in Jung's works. We also take note of the Association's adoption of an encompassing statement of non-discrimination in its constitution, and the requirement for similar statements in the constitutions of all group members. By the same token, we view Jung's own relationship to these aspects of his life and writings as complex, culturally embedded in the world of late 19th and early 20th Century colonialism, and often balanced by expressions of deep admiration for the same groups. It is nevertheless the case that the problematic nature of these aspects of analytical psychology's heritage has never before been clearly acknowledged in a public forum.

(4) With this background in mind, the IAAP Executive Committee, with the endorsement of the Association's membership, wishes to state clearly that the IAAP deeply regrets the failure to acknowledge the impact of these elements of Jung's work and to take steps appropriate from an institutional standpoint to mitigate their impact on the effected populations as well as on the community of analytical psychologists generally. We realise that among other implications of

these aspects of Jung's work it has often been difficult for persons who are African or of African or indigenous heritage to contemplate either entering Jungian analysis or training to become a Jungian analyst.

(5) By way of this public statement of the position of the IAAP, which has been discussed throughout the organization, the IAAP calls on all involved in the dissemination of Jung's ideas, the training of Jungian analysts and other activities associated with analytical psychology to devote (or increase) attention in their programs to the in-depth study of clinical and societal matters affecting all ethnic groups, incorporating transcultural and intercultural perspectives. Particular attention should be paid not only to Jung's often explicit comments on some populations but also to how language originally intended to communicate a symbolic sense of depth or hiddenness, such as "primitive" or the "darkness of the shadow," has led to a complex and often negative response to the theory and practice of analytical psychology. We emphasize that this is not a call for censorship of either Jung or the work of analytical psychologists, but rather for deeper reflection and consideration of the role that might still be played by these aspects of Jung's work in the on going development of analytical psychology in the 21st Century.

(6) We do not expect an immediate healing of wounds that may have been created in the past by failure to more publically acknowledge these matters. We realise that, collectively, we have a great deal of learning to do and reflection to undertake. Yet we hope that the constructive nature of our intentions is recognised. We seek dialogue with people and institutions who have been dismayed, not only at what they have read in Jung, but also at the delay on the part of the international representatives of analytical psychology in making an adequate response. This call for action also reflects the conviction of members of the IAAP that analytical psychology holds much promise for informing and transforming many of the cultural and societal forces that lead to prejudice and conflict.

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