



June 28, 2021

RE: Pride Month

As we come towards the end of June, APUS would like to continue to echo the sentiments that have been voiced all month by many in the community, and to once again wish all of our members a ‘Happy Pride Month!’ Though celebrations have had to be virtual and separated from our friends and loved ones as we continue to navigate the obstacles of another COVID year, we are proud to stand in solidarity with members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community whether it be in person or virtually,

Pride Month is widely known as a time for celebration, but we should always remember that pride first began as a riot. QTPOC-led uprisings like the one at Stonewall Inn, the anniversary of which is today, were in response to police harassment and brutality. Remember that Trans and non-binary people have fought to make Pride possible. Remember that the BIPOC and Two Spirit people within the queer community have been fighting against the impacts of colonialism for the Pride that exists today. Pride Month is a time of celebration, but it is also a time to remember, reflect and mourn the events - the fights, losses, and victories- that led the 2SLGBTQ+ community and allies to where we stand today.

There is always more work to do in ensuring that 2SLGBTQ+ people can lead lives free of discrimination. Work to create spaces for BIPOC, Two Spirit, Trans, non-binary, and disabled people within the queer community. Work that pursues safe spaces for all members of the queer community within society itself. Work that involves bringing more awareness and understanding of intersectionality, to better acknowledge and understand each other. Lastly, work that fights against the harmful impacts of colonialism affecting not only the 2SLGBTQ+ community but against all who are oppressed. We remind members that Pride Month is also Indigenous Peoples History Month, especially during this difficult time and that we all stand together. We encourage you to prioritize advocacy and education, not only through the month of June but throughout the year.

In Solidarity,
The APUS Executive Committee