



April 16, 2019

Important Note Concerning 2019 AAA/CASCA Meeting Safety

AAA's 2018 [Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault](#) establishes a clear framework for responsible professional conduct. AAA will do what it takes to enforce these policies and protect our members, staff, and other individuals from harassment, assault, and other misconduct while they are taking part in AAA-sponsored events and activities. As we look forward to the 2019 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, co-organized with CASCA, AAA is building on these policies to finalize a set of implementation procedures for meetings and conferences, governance activities, and editorial office activities.

In addition to provisions included in the 2018 Policy, these implementation procedures provide:

- Enhanced security at the Meeting, including badge checking to prevent unregistered attendance.
- An expectation that all job interviews are to take place at the onsite Career Center and not in private spaces such as hotel rooms.
- A well-publicized reporting mechanism for those who feel unsafe at the event because of the presence of another attendee.
 - Specially trained individuals, including AAA staff and ombudspersons, who will be easily identifiable by "Safety & Security" badges, along with a phone / text / email hotline posted on a 2019 Annual Meeting Anti-Harassment webpage, distributed via email prior to and during the Meeting, and widely publicized on signage.
 - Trained Safety & Security Ambassadors available to discreetly accompany attendees who feel unsafe to Meeting events at their request. Details about how to become a trained Ambassador will be provided in the coming weeks.
 - Respect for confidentiality requests, within the parameters of the law; AAA will also do everything in its power to protect anyone participating in a complaint process from retaliation.

Individuals who are currently sanctioned for assault or harassment by an adjudicating institution (e.g., a university) will be barred from taking part in AAA events. Appeals may be requested in the case of advance registration; on-site registration for such individuals will not be permitted.

If an individual in attendance at an AAA-sponsored meeting / event is found to have violated the AAA harassment policy, AAA will revoke the individual's permission to be on the premises. Should such an incident arise, the Association will work directly with security and law enforcement to manage the removal process.

Protecting the safety and security of those filing complaints is paramount. If there is a broader concern regarding the safety of all attendees, we will provide timely public updates as they become available.

In addition to these procedures, AAA is planning two workshops at the 2019 Annual Meeting, organized by the Members Programmatic Advisory and Advocacy Committee (MPAAC).

- *Creating Safer Learning Environments: Best Practices for Implementation*
- *Stand Up and Speak Out to Eliminate Violence and Harassment in Anthropology*

It is our hope that many of our members and attendees will join us in serving as allies by attending these workshops and participating in our Safety & Security Ambassador training program.

Alex W. Barker, AAA President