

Date: March 28, 2014  
To: AAA Executive Board  
From: Damon Dozier, Director of Public Affairs, ([ddozier@aaanet.org](mailto:ddozier@aaanet.org) / 703.528.1902, x1163)  
Subject: Statements and Resolutions re: AAA Public Policy Actions

This memorandum provides information about AAA public policy statements since the 1990s, and AAA rules and procedures regarding their adoption. Due to the number of statements the Association has issued in the recent past, this document focuses on the Association's major actions. **To date, the AAA has never announced a boycott of any academic institution or foreign country.**

## ASSOCIATION RULES AND POLICIES

In 2004, the AAA adopted rules ([http://www.aaanet.org/committees/aoc/pub\\_stmts.htm](http://www.aaanet.org/committees/aoc/pub_stmts.htm)) entitled "Guidelines for Consideration of Proposed Public Statements, to include Motions from the Annual Business Meeting." The guidelines include the following:

1. The Board should be strategic in selecting matters on which to speak out (i.e., don't waste your powder on matters on which the organization has little hope of making an impact).
2. Public statements should address matters of clear common professional interest and concern to the Association's membership or public statements should be issued only on matters about which the Association's members have special knowledge and or expertise.
3. The statement itself should include language that demonstrates such special knowledge. Thus, to the extent possible, the statement should present anthropological findings, conclusions or recommendations on the matter being addressed.
4. Public statements should make a contribution to better public understanding of the matter being addressed.
5. Public statements should specify their intended audience.
6. If the statement seeks action, it should specify upon whom such action is urged and detail the action being sought.

The AAA also has a list of guidelines for selecting locations for its annual and section meetings ([http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/loc\\_policies.cfm](http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/loc_policies.cfm)):

1. AAA may not meet in any state with sodomy laws.
2. AAA staff responsible for negotiating and administering meeting venue contracts shall "strongly prefer" meeting facilities whose staff are represented by a union.
3. AAA staff responsible for negotiating and administering annual meeting contracts shall show preference to locales with living wage ordinances.
4. AAA values giving preference to accommodation suppliers that have active and ongoing sustainability programs and policies.

## US LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO AAA BOYCOTT

Several US locations have been identified as off-limits for annual or section meetings until specific, measurable changes have been instituted. These include:

1. Illinois (US) (repealed) – In 1999, the AAA passed a resolution announcing that the Association would not hold scholarly meetings in the state of Illinois until such a time that the University of Illinois replace "Chief Illiniwek" with a mascot that does not promote "inaccurate, anachronistic

and damaging stereotypes of Native American people, or indeed members of any minority group.” In June 2007, the Executive Board agreed that in recognition of the fact that the University of Illinois has discontinued its use of Chief Illiniwek as a mascot, AAA will resume scheduling meetings in Illinois. AAA held an Annual Meeting in Chicago in 2013.

2. Arizona (US) – On May 22, 2010 the AAA Executive Board passed a resolution resolving to not hold a scholarly conference (applying to its Sections, Committees and Commissions) in the state of Arizona until such time that Senate Bill 1070 is either repealed or struck down as constitutionally invalid and thus unenforceable by a court. This Bill SB 1070, would have, among other things, made the failure to carry certain immigration documents a crime, and given the police broad power to detain anyone suspected of being in the country illegally, even if they had committed no other crime. It is worth noting that this ban does not apply to Indian Reservations in the state. It is also worth noting that some of the most objectionable provisions were later struck down by the US Supreme Court.  
(<http://www.azcentral.com/news/politics/articles/2012/06/03/20120603arizona-immigration-law-supreme-court-opinion.html>).
3. Georgia (US) – Also on May 22, 2010, the AAA Executive Board passed a resolution resolving to not hold a scholarly conference (applying to its Sections, Committees and Commissions) in the state of Georgia until such time as HB 87 is either repealed or struck down as constitutionally invalid. Some of the provisions of the bill included a provision that would make the use of false information or documentation when applying for a job a felony. Another provision created an immigration review board to investigate complaints about government officials not complying with state laws related to illegal immigration, and applicants for public benefits would have to provide at least one state or federally issued "secure and verifiable" document. A month after this resolution passed, the Executive Board Ad Hoc Group on Immigration (Hugh Gusterson, Ed Liebow, Vilma Santiago-Irizarry, Jay Schensul, Alisse Waterston) drafted a General Statement on Immigration (<http://www.aaanet.org/issues/policy-advocacy/AAA-General-Statement-on-Immigration.cfm>) that declared that the AAA “will continue to monitor closely and avoid investing in states that sponsor laws that give police broad powers and discretion to single out members of a specific ethnic group whether in principle or by practice; remove social services from undocumented immigrants; ban undocumented immigrants from public schools and colleges, and/or charge discriminatory fees; criminalize those who drive or shelter undocumented immigrants; and require individual identification cards that indicate immigration status.” At the time of the drafting of the statement, at least five states (Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, and Utah) had passed anti-immigration legislation, and according to AAA staff research, legislation was pending in at least 23 other states, though none secured passage (<https://www.aclu.org/immigrants-rights/state-anti-immigrant-laws>).

#### **LOCATIONS SUBJECT TO AAA STATEMENTS OF CENSURE OR CONDEMNATION**

Several locations have been subject to Association statements of censure or condemnation in an effort to see measurable changes instituted. These include:

1. Cuba – In January, 1994, AAA passed a resolution condemning the US Cuban embargo and asking that the US Congress and President Clinton adopt a consistent humanitarian policy of alleviating human suffering by ending its Cuban embargo, and in particular lifting its ban on the sale of food and medical supplies and equipment; and adopt a more humane approach to resolving differences with Cuba by encouraging a freer exchange of ideas and persons, lifting for example, its restrictions on US citizens' travel to Cuba and Cuban citizens' travel to the US,

including Cuban scholars and students seeking academic degrees, and its ban on the sale of paper desperately needed for educational purposes.

2. Colorado (US) – In January, 1995, AAA passed a resolution calling upon the citizens of Colorado to challenge and repeal State Constitutional Amendment #2, which sought to repeal anti-discrimination ordinances in several Colorado cities, and also called upon Colorado citizens to urge the state legislature to prohibit the passage of any such ordinances in the future.
3. Peru – In June, 2009, the AAA and Organizing Committee of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) issued a statement to Peruvian President Alan Garcia expressing concern about the government’s violation of indigenous peoples’ human, territorial and legal rights. The statement also condemned the use of violence against peaceful protestors, as well as the executive decrees against which they were protesting.
4. Honduras – In February, 2010, AAA members voted to adopt a resolution urging US President Obama and members of the US Congress to acknowledge and condemn the human rights violations that were committed by the de facto government in Honduras since the June 28, 2009 coup d’état; give support to progressive forces in Honduras striving to create a real democracy; work with allied countries to find a peaceful and democratic solution to the ongoing crisis in Honduras; and join other Latin American countries in withholding recognition of individuals selected in a subsequent election held November 29, 2009. The text of this AAA resolution can be found at: <http://www.aaanet.org/issues/AAA-Honduras-Resolution.cfm>.

#### AMICUS CURIAE

An “amicus curiae” (“friend of the court”) brief is where a legal opinion, expert testimony, or scholarly research findings are used to introduce concerns in a legal proceeding by someone who is not directly a party to the proceeding, has not been invited by any of the parties to the proceeding to assist the court, but has information that has a bearing on the case. The Association has, on certain occasions, offered an amicus brief based on research findings that have been published in our journals. Included among recent amicus briefs in which the Association has participated are:

1. *Varnum v. Brien* (same-sex marriage in Iowa) – AAA signed on to support the rights of six same-sex couples who filed suit in December 2005 in Polk County, Iowa, asking the court to uphold their right to marry under the Iowa Constitution and to strike down as unconstitutional the law in Iowa that excludes gay and lesbian couples from marriage.
2. *Greenberg v. National Geographic* (photo reproduction rights) – AAA supported the position of National Geographic, which held that a freelance photographer could not sue the magazine for reprinting photos originally taken for the magazine on its digital media outlets.
3. *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (California Proposition 8) – AAA advocated for repealing Proposition 8, a state law, as supported by voters by ballot initiative that would have banned same-sex marriages in California.
4. *Lyons v. New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee* (Mt. Taylor – cultural resources protection) – AAA supported the position of the sovereign tribal governments of the area that the Mt. Taylor site should remain as a sacred site. An extinct volcano, Mount Taylor is considered sacred by the Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, Acoma and Laguna people and is an important pilgrimage site for members of at least 30 tribes.
5. *Fisher v. University of Texas* (affirmative action) – A student filed suit against the University of Texas after being denied admission. The student sued, believing he was denied admission while less qualified candidates of color were accepted. The AAA supported the University’s position that racial diversity should be a factor in admissions standards.

## AAA TOPICAL STATEMENTS

Below is a list of issues that AAA has weighed in on in the past; the statements themselves are located online at <http://www.aaanet.org/about/Policies/statements/>. Attached to this memo, as an FYI, is a table of contents for a binder in the AAA office that contains topical statements/resolutions that the AAA has passed from 1949 to 1992.

1. Guidelines for Consideration of Proposed Public Statements, to include Motions from the Annual Business Meeting
2. Guidelines for the Evaluation of Ethnographic Visual Media - 2001
3. Statement on Amendment 2, State of Colorado – January 1995
4. Statement on Cuban Trade Embargo – January 1994
5. Statement on Disabilities – January 1993
6. Statement on Ethics – November 2012
7. Statement on Ethnography and Institutional Review Boards – January 2004
8. Statement on Evolution – April 2000
9. Statement on Confidentiality of Field Notes – March 2003
10. Statement on Human Rights – June 1999
11. Statement on Interdiction of Haitian Refugees – January 1994
12. Statement on Interventions to Prevent HIV Risk Behaviors – January 1997
13. Statement on Language Rights – January 1996
14. Statement on Laws and Policies Discriminating against Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Persons – January 1995
15. Statement on the Misuse of "Scientific Findings" to Promote Bigotry and Racial and Ethnic Hatred and Discrimination – January 1995
16. Statement on Peace Negotiations and Prosecution of War Criminals in Territories of Former Yugoslavia – October 1996
17. Statement on "Race" – May 1998
18. Statement on "Race" and Intelligence – December 1994
19. Statement on Response to Accusations in the *Anthropology Newsletter* – January 1995
20. Statement on Violence against Women Act – January 1994

Missing from this list are the AAA are statements about gun violence (January 2013) (<http://www.aaanet.org/issues/press/upload/Gun-Violence-Statement.pdf>), suggestions for alternatives to the US Census Bureau's Label, "Linguistically Isolated" (May, 2010) (<http://www.aaanet.org/issues/policy-advocacy/linguistic-isolation.cfm>), and about Human Terrain Systems (October 2007) (<http://www.aaanet.org/issues/policy-advocacy/statement-on-HTS.cfm>).

## COMPANY BOYCOTTS

1. Coca-Cola (multinational) – In February, 2009, the AAA announced that it supports the Colombian union SINALTRAINAL's call for a boycott of the Coca-Cola company and its products, and AAA calls on its members to do the same until Coca-Cola agrees in good faith with its workers. The resolution was adopted by the Executive Board at the recommendation of the AAA Labor Relations Commission and in response to a report by Lesley Gill, a specialist in Latin American human rights and political violence with American University. Her findings indicated that Coca-Cola had not been sufficiently proactive in protecting workers and their families in Colombia from intimidation and violence and that the right to organize unions had not been respected.



## AAA INVESTMENTS

According to our investment advisor, the AAA portfolio currently has no funds invested in companies based in Israel or the West Bank. In addition, and although it is not the result of an explicit policy or strategy to avoid such investments, the AAA has no financial interest in companies identified by the [wedivest.org](http://wedivest.org) campaign as having problematic investments/practices (Africa Israel, Caterpillar, Elbit Systems, G4S, Hewlett Packard, Motorola Solutions, Northrop Grumman, Sodastream, Veolia).

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

AAA MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

~~1959 - present~~

1949 - present

SUBJECT INDEX

Academic Freedom.....25, 51b, 68

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).....82

Acquisition of Cultural Properties.....27

Affiliation for Nonacademics.....71

Alaskan Natives.....9b, 10b

Antiquities.....1a, 24d

Amer Assoc for the Advancement of Science.....2b, 20d, 33a

Amer Assoc of the University Professors.....10a

American Society.....11a

Annual Meeting.....5a, 14a, 20b, 36a, 39a, 43a

Anthropological Film Research Institute.....16a, 33c

Anthropological Research Services.....35a

Apartheid.....58

Aquino, Benigno.....76

Archaeological Excavations.....34b

Archaeological Specimens.....1a, 8b

Archives.....6b, 16a

*Argentina*.....90

Asian Americans.....32d

Banks, Dennis.....73

Bibliographic Control.....18b

Brazil.....14d, 43b, 46a, 47a, 52a, b, 69

*Bulgarian Forced Assimilation of Turks*.....87

Burundi Government.....86

Calha Norte Project in Brazil.....85

Canadian Association of University Teachers.....10a

Central Intelligence Agency.....59

Child Care.....14a, 20b

Chile.....	28,29a,b,32b,c,38a,53
China.....	74
Classified Research.....	7d,59
Coca Use.....	44a
Collective Bargaining.....	19a
<i>Colorado Amndmt. #2</i>	<i>91</i>
Confidential Information.....	7e,22b
Constitution.....	12a
Creationism.....	56,70
"Custer's Revenge" Video Game.....	57
Discrimination.....	7a,c,9d,13a,17b,19b,20a,23b,30a,b,31a,b
Education.....	42b,70
El Salvador.....	52
Employment.....	11b,17b,c,d,19b,21a,26,33b,d,36b,37a,40,44b, .....54,55,59,71,79
Ethics.....	4a,14b,c,18a,79
Evolution.....	50
Film Center.....	33c
Foreign Aid.....	45a
Foreign Fellows.....	12a
Force, Use of.....	6a
Freeman, Derek.....	77
Gambill, Jerry.....	24e
Golden Fleece Award.....	48a
Grants.....	30a,b,31a
Greensboro Trial.....	51c
Grenada.....	76
Guatemala.....	52c,67
Historic Preservation.....	62
Homosexuality.....	12b,13a,b,42a

Human Rights.....	45a, 53
Illegal Traffic in Antiquities.....	12, 24d
Indigenous People.....	9b, 10b, 14d, 43b, 45a, 46a, 47a, 52a
.....	53, 67, 69, 72
Informant's Anonymity.....	18e
International Organizations.....	1a, 2b, 6a, 11c
Iran.....	45b
Israel.....	68
Latin America.....	1a, 9a, 14d, 28a
Lebanon.....	63
Maoists.....	49b, 51a
Margaret Mead in Samoa.....	77
Mexico.....	1a, 24d
Micronesia.....	61
Minorities.....	7f, 11b, 13a, b, 14d, 19c, 79
Misrepresentation of Science.....	41a
Museums.....	31c
<i>Native American Symbols</i>	88
Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute.....	72
<i>Native American Church</i>	89
Nestle Boycott.....	49a
Nominations.....	18d
Nonhuman Primates.....	22a
Nuclear Weapons.....	66, 75, 78
Philippines.....	72, 76
Placement Service.....	38b
Political Refugee Status.....	60
Puerto Rico.....	32a
Purchase of Historically Valuable Materials.....	24a
Race.....	2a, 7f, 8a, 19c, 23b, 34, Appendix
Religious Beliefs.....	24c
Resolutions (& Motions).....	35b, 47b, 70

Research.....	4a,7d,11a,12b,16a,17a,20e,24a,25a,34a,35a,59
Rights of Citizenship of Language Minority Americans.....	84
Romanian Resettlement.....	83
Round Valley, CA.....	8b
Science 83.....	77
Schiller, Nina.....	49b,51a
Sitton, Salamon.....	77
Society for American Archaeology.....	18c
South Africa.....	58
Southern University.....	23a
Tasaday Controversy.....	81
Teaching.....	71
Tenure.....	17b,c
Training.....	11a,12b,17a
UNESCO.....	1a,11c
University of Northern Colorado.....	64
Use in Anthropology.....	2b
Vietnam.....	3a,24b
Violence.....	80
Visual Anthropology.....	16a
Warfare.....	3a
West Pakistan.....	20c
Women.....	7a,b,9c,17d,19b,20a,30b,31a,c,33d,44b,54
World Bank.....	52a
Yellow Thunder Camp.....	65