

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

Date Submitted: 8/20/2025

Agenda Item #: 15D/August 2025

(completed by staff)

Please follow the instructions on the right-hand side. The back of this page provides the Guidelines for Council Resolutions, the APA priorities most recently identified by Council and a space for co-sponsors to sign. **If you have questions, consult a staff person or a member of the Council Leadership Team.**

**Title:** Updating 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice

**Mover(s):** Tiffany O'Shaughnessy, PhD, Jordan Dunn, PhD, Dana Charatan, PsyD

**Representing:** Division 35 and Division 39

**Issue:** Council is asked to 1) archive the 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice (Main Motion 1) and 2) adopt as APA policy the 2026 Resolution on Antisemitism (Main Motion 2)

This new business item presents a timely and intersectional revision to the APA's 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice. In the intervening years, significant scholarly work and political developments in the United States and around the globe make it imperative that APA update this resolution to ensure greater clarity, accuracy, and utility in combating the heightened dangers of antisemitism today.

Among the serious shortcomings of the APA Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice approved in 2007 is its adoption of the view that criticism of the state of Israel is a form of antisemitism. This perspective parallels current applications of the highly controversial International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) "working definition" of antisemitism (Mazower, 2025. Penslar, 2022) that punish or suppress scholarship or activism (Levi, 2024). Seven of the eleven examples of antisemitism provided by the IHRA focus on Israel specifically, and the "working definition" has been used by governments and other organizations to suppress and punish free speech critical of the state of Israel and/or supportive of Palestinian rights (Mazower, 2025). Mislabeling scholarship and activism critical of Israel as antisemitism caused ripple effects, negatively impacting school funding, teaching, college campus safety, immigration, and other civil rights beyond free speech. A crucial harm of this approach is that it diverts attention from the dangers of anti-Jewish discrimination and acts of violence directed at Jews for being Jewish.

INSTRUCTIONS
Title: Concise title that accurately reflects the spirit/intent of the main motion.
Mover(s): Identify the author(s) of the item.
Representing: Identify the constituency the author(s) represent.
Issue: Provide a rationale for the motion as well as relevant background information. Avoid extraneous detail.

*\*Please describe, in detail, the way in which the NBI may impact historically and/or currently marginalized or diverse groups (e.g., race, ethnicity, color, culture, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, spirituality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, immigration status, national origin, language, military or veteran status, and intersectionality), and/or how people from these groups have been considered and addressed in the NBI.*

*a. Please identify specific groups you believe may be impacted.*

*b. Statements may reference historic or current disparities and any efforts to address them. Specific links to APA strategic goals—particularly related to EDI and global concerns—are encouraged.*

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

The APA must ensure that its own resolutions do not inadvertently undermine its commitment to prioritizing and protecting human rights, including freedom of expression (APA 2021c; Kempf, 2012). Any resolution that defines antisemitism in accord with the IHRA “working definition” will constrain APA’s ability to provide educational resources, advocate effectively to eradicate antisemitism, and constructively respond to allegations of antisemitism. A clear and updated resolution will enable APA to integrate critical awareness of antisemitism into its mission to address systemic racism (APA, 2021a) and all forms of oppression.

The proposed 2026 Resolution on Antisemitism will allow APA to meet its “ethical obligation to challenge systemic injustices and advocate for policies that promote human welfare” (APA 2017a; 2021b; 2025) while also maintaining our commitment to “free and open academic inquiry and debate” (APA, 2016; APASI, 2022). At present, the outdated 2007 resolution cannot meet these obligations, as evidenced below:

Antisemitism operates as a core component of white supremacy, intertwined with racism and other exclusionary ideologies in the United States and around the globe (Ward, 2017). The ideology that Jews (and Muslims) are racially different from Christian Europeans can be traced as far back as the Spanish Inquisition (Kivel, 2017). Antisemitism has been a way for dominant groups to blame social conditions on Jews, something which in modern times has crystallized in conspiracy theories that social change and increasing cultural diversity are linked to Jewish efforts to subvert Western society (Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, 2017).

A current US manifestation is the Great Replacement Theory (Beirich, 2021; Winston, 2021), which holds that Jews seek to undermine the white/Christian character of the United States. While antisemitism can emerge anywhere, survey research locates the “epicenter” of antisemitic beliefs to be held among individuals on the far right of the political spectrum (Hersh & Royden, 2022). The dangers of these white supremacist beliefs are evident in recent acts of violence affecting Jews and other minority groups (Milwicki, 2024). According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC, 2024), there is a rise in multiple forms of hatred and violence based in antisemitism ranging from mass shootings, bomb threats at synagogues, and the spread of conspiracy theories such as the “great replacement” theory. In addition to targeting Jewish communities, adherents to this ideology targeted Black and Latinx people in mass shootings in El Paso, TX in 2019 and Buffalo, NY in 2022. Meanwhile, antisemitism in left-wing political movements can pose harm both to Jews and to all who aim to work toward social justice, for example, by impairing well-meaning efforts to work toward social justice (Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, 2017).

These examples demonstrate how antisemitism and white supremacy are interlocking ideologies that must be addressed jointly for the safety of racial and ethnic minority communities. Because of these shared dangers, it is especially important that antisemitism not be addressed in ways that are fractious, that undermine social justice for any other group, or that further draw on systemic racism that disproportionately criminalizes people of color (APA, 2021a). For example, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has acknowledged the dynamic of

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

weaponized antisemitism, which is the strategic and bad faith use of accusations of antisemitism, observing that it has been used in particular to silence and punish people of color (SPLC, 2024). This weaponization is also harmful to the Jewish community as it assumes that all Jews share the same beliefs about Israel, which can contribute to the malicious stereotype that all Jews are associated with the actions of the state of Israel, and further, it has been harmful for Jews exercising their rights to free speech such as scholarship and activism for human rights and social justice (Segal, 2024). Finally, addressing antisemitism in isolation from a racial justice analysis would perpetuate the harms that Jews of color experience, including the experience of racism within the Jewish community (Belzer et al., 2021), making it crucial that APA's antisemitism policy and strategy not be misapplied to efforts to address racial injustice in all its forms, and that it instead, advance intergroup solidarity.

In sum, it is time for the APA to replace the outdated and flawed 2007 resolution on antisemitism with one that can guide psychology as an empirically grounded and anti-oppressive science.

### **Estimated Costs/Staff Resources:** N/A

**Estimated Costs/Staff Resources:** Provide, to the best of your ability, a realistic assessment of what this will cost. Consult with a staff person if needed.

**Data Needs/Supporting Data:** Specify what data exists or needs to be collected to support the need for this business item. In addition, specify what data is needed to assess outcomes or impact of the business item.

### **Data Needs/Supporting Data:**

- Antisemitism has been correlated with higher stress levels and decreased life satisfaction (Rosen et al., 2018).
- Given the experiences of historical trauma, and intergenerational transmission of trauma (Bowers & Yehuda, 2016) within the Jewish community, experiences of antisemitism, that is, hostility, prejudice, discrimination, harassment, hatred, or violence directed toward Jews as Jews, can have unique and synergistic impacts on mental health.
- Antisemitic acts create a climate of fear, anxiety and insecurity, both for the individual and the community; as such, Jews are exposed to suffering from feelings of vulnerability, anger, depression and other sequelae of victimization (Altman et al., 2010; Bowers & Yehuda, 2016; Valent, 2002)
- A nationally representative survey found that while people in the U.S. hold more favorable than unfavorable views of Jews, 6% of U.S. adults, or 20 million people, still express negative attitudes towards Jews (Pew Research Center, 2023).
- Analysis of anti-semitism across decades shows it to be dynamic and worthy of nuanced attention to the social psychology and interplay of race, immigration and socioeconomic status (Cohen, 2018).
- Scientific evidence from a study conducted by political scientists with 3500 American participants demonstrates the threat of right-wing antisemitism (Hersh & Royden, 2022). Young adults with far-right political views are found to be seven times more likely to hold antisemitic views than young adults with far-left political views. This underscores the danger of an

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

exclusive focus on rhetoric of left-wing activists when there is evidence of wider spread antisemitism, along with an increase in mass shootings, related to right-wing political beliefs, requiring that APA support the identification of and the prevention of these biases.

- Multicultural psychologists identify the need for Jewish religious identity and practice along with Jewish secular identity to be affirmed in psychotherapy (Schlosser et al., 2009). To do so effectively, scholars warn against the pitfall of approaches which have led to a “schism” between Black Americans and Jews and point to the shared interests and shared experiences of Muslim Americans and Jewish Americans (Schlosser et al., 2009; Schlosser et al., 2007).
- A September 2025 Washington Post (October 7, 2025) survey of a representative sample of American Jews found that: 47% say there is “a lot” of antisemitism in the U.S. today; 32% say they feel “not at all” or “not too” safe as a Jew in the U.S. today; 56% feel at least “somewhat” emotionally attached to Israel; 46% approve of the military action Israel has taken in Gaza; 61% believe Israel has committed war crimes against Palestinians in Gaza; 39% believe Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza; and 72% do not consider criticizing Israel for any reason to be antisemitic (Bendavid et al., 2025).

**Diversity Impact:** This NBI should have a positive effect in allowing psychologists to more effectively advocate against antisemitism. We anticipate no negative impacts for individuals based on diversity status. The resolution may also enhance cultural competence among psychologists working with Jewish clients of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds (e.g., Sephardi, Mizrahi, Black Jews, and converts) and support intergroup solidarity between Jewish and non-Jewish marginalized groups.

### Main Motion I:

That Council archives the following 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice:

#### Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice

*Adopted by the APA Council of Representatives August 2005/Amended August 2007*

**WHEREAS** prejudice and discrimination based on religion have caused untold human suffering throughout recorded history; and

**WHEREAS** anti-Jewish hostility, usually called anti-Semitism, has taken various forms over the centuries and has been perpetrated by many groups throughout history (Allswang, 1985); and

Diversity Impact: Consider the positive, negative or neutral impact of the motion for marginalized populations and provide a rationale of the basis of the assessment.

Main Motion: Describe in succinct language what you are asking for. If requesting the formation of a task force or committee, specify its charge, size and expected duration. If requesting an amendment to the Association Rules or Bylaws, provide the current language and bracket material to be deleted and underline material to be added.

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

**WHEREAS** the intense prejudice, discrimination and hatred that grew out of long-standing anti-Semitism led to the Holocaust, perpetrated in Europe by the Nazis in the 1940s, which eventuated in the brutal annihilation of six million Jews (Charney, 2000); and

**WHEREAS** anti-Semitic acts of violence in the United States are increasing alarmingly, with 1,821 reported in 2004, the highest level in nine years and an increase of 17% over the number reported in 2003 (Anti-Defamation League, 2005); and

**WHEREAS** "The increasing frequency and severity of anti-Semitic incidents since the start of the 21st century, particularly in Europe, has compelled the international community to focus on anti-Semitism with renewed vigor" (U.S. Department of State, 2004); and

**WHEREAS** the United States Congress has approved the Global Anti-Semitism Awareness/Review Act, which acknowledges a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism and establishes an office in the State Department to monitor and combat anti-Semitism worldwide (U.S. Department of State, 2004); and

**WHEREAS** the 2005 Survey of American Attitudes Towards Jews in America by the Anti-Defamation League found that 14% of Americans or nearly 35 million adults, hold views about Jews that are "unquestionably anti-Semitic" (Anti-Defamation League, 2005); and

**WHEREAS** much anti-Semitism today takes the form of "modern" or "new" anti-Semitism, in which actual bias against Jews is denied while prejudiced attitudes exist and discriminatory statements or acts are engaged in (Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 2004); and

**WHEREAS** this form of anti-Semitism may be more difficult for its perpetrators to identify and challenge, as their beliefs about themselves may be that they are not biased against Jews (Gaertner & Dovidio, 1986); and

**WHEREAS** this form of anti-Semitism may be asserted in the context of discourse regarding the actions of the Government of Israel, thus further disguising the anti-Semitic nature of the discourse (Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 2004); and

**WHEREAS** the link between extreme anti-Israel rhetoric and deeds directed against Jewish individuals and communities has become an observable global trend and has at times unleashed demonization and dehumanization of Jews; (Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 2004); and

**WHEREAS** every anti-Semitic act creates a climate of fear, anxiety and insecurity, both for the individual and the community; as such therefore, Jews are exposed to suffering the feelings of vulnerability, anger, depression and other sequelae of victimization (Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Valent, 2002); and

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

**WHEREAS** anti-Semitic acts also harm the perpetrators by desensitizing them to violence, and raise concerns about their generalizing such acts to other groups (Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Ezequiel, 1995, 2002; Staub, 1990, 2005); and

**WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association has recognized the profound psychological consequences of hate crimes motivated by prejudice (APA Council of Representatives, 2005); and

**WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association opposes prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or physical condition (American Psychological Association, 2002); and

**WHEREAS** as psychologists we respect the dignity and worth of all people and are committed to improving the condition of individuals, organizations, and society, we are aware of and respect cultural, individual, and role differences among individuals, including (but not limited to) those based on ethnicity, national origin, and religion (American Psychological Association, 2002);

and

**WHEREAS** psychologists recognize and protect civil and human rights and strive to help the public develop informed judgments and choices concerning human behavior:

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association condemns all anti-Semitic attitudes and actions, both overt and covert, and will use its influence to promote fairness, respect, and dignity for all people, regardless of religion or ethnicity, in all arenas in which psychologists work and practice, and in society at large.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association will take a leadership role in opposing anti-Semitism.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association encourages all psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination of an anti-Semitic nature.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association encourages research to better understand the characteristics, causes, and consequences of both overt and covert anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish prejudice.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association will include appropriate information on anti-Semitism in its multicultural and diversity training material and activities, and that diversity and multicultural efforts will take cognizance of anti-Semitism, whether subtle or not, and will attempt to overcome it.

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

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## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

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### Main Motion II:

To aid APA in more effectively combating antisemitism, we ask that council adopts as APA policy the following Resolution on Antisemitism:

#### **Resolution on Antisemitism (2026)**

**WHEREAS** prejudice and discrimination based on religion has caused untold human suffering throughout recorded history; and

**WHEREAS** anti-Jewish hostility has been perpetrated by many groups throughout history (United Nations, 2019) and was a central factor in the perpetration of the

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

Holocaust in Europe by the Nazis in the 1940s, which eventuated in the brutal annihilation of six million Jews (e.g., Charney, 2000); and

**WHEREAS** multiple contemporary definitions of antisemitism all share the recognition that antisemitism involves hostility, prejudice, discrimination, harassment, hatred, or violence against Jews as Jews (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, (n.d.); Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, (n.d.); Nexus, (n.d.); T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, (n.d.)); and

**WHEREAS** antisemitic acts of violence in the United States and around the world have increased dramatically since the Hamas-led attacks of October 7, 2023 and Israel's invasion of Gaza that followed (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2025; Vision of Humanity, 2025); and

**WHEREAS** many college campuses have become sites of heightened debate, tension, and conflict since the October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attacks and Israel's subsequent assault on Gaza, creating confusion over conceptions of antisemitism and principles of free speech (APA, 2025; Mazower, 2025); and

**WHEREAS** scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies have emphasized that the following do *not* constitute antisemitic acts: support for Palestinian demands consistent with international law; support for full equality for everyone in Israel/Palestine; evidence-based criticism of Israel's institutions, founding principles, practices, policies, and actions; and non-violent forms of political protest (e.g., Butler, 2014; Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, (n.d.)); and

**WHEREAS** there is broad agreement that, in regard to the state of Israel, it is antisemitic to hold Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the state of Israel; to require Jews to publicly condemn Israel; to assume that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their home countries; and to deny Jews in Israel/Palestine the right to exist and flourish as Jews on the basis of legal equality (e.g., International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, (n.d.); Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, (n.d.)); and

**WHEREAS** the weaponization of antisemitism — the manipulative or bad faith invocation of accusations to silence legitimate criticism, scholarship, or activism — creates significant adverse consequences for Jews and non-Jews who oppose the state of Israel's actions and support Palestinian rights (Mann & Yona, 2025; Stern, 2019); and

**WHEREAS** every antisemitic act creates a climate of fear, anxiety and insecurity, both for the individual and the community; as such, Jews are exposed to suffering from feelings of vulnerability, anger, depression and other sequelae of victimization (e.g., Altman et al., 2010; Bowers & Yehuda, 2016; Valent, 2002); and

**WHEREAS** antisemitic acts also harm the perpetrators by desensitizing them to violence, and raise concerns about their generalizing such acts to other groups (e.g., Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Ezequiel, 1995, 2002; Staub, 1990, 2005); and

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

**WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association has recognized the profound psychological consequences of hate crimes motivated by prejudice (APA Council of Representatives, 2005); and

**WHEREAS** the American Psychological Association opposes prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or physical condition (American Psychological Association, 2021); and

**WHEREAS** as psychologists, we respect the dignity and worth of all people and are committed to improving the condition of individuals, organizations, and society, we are aware of and respect cultural, individual, and role differences among individuals, including (but not limited to) those based on religion and/or ethnicity (American Psychological Association, 2021); and

**WHEREAS** psychologists recognize and protect civil and human rights and strive to help the public develop informed judgments and choices concerning human behavior (American Psychological Association, 2017):

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association condemns all antisemitic attitudes and actions, and will use its influence to promote fairness, respect, and dignity for all people, regardless of religion or ethnicity, in all arenas in which psychologists work and practice, and in society at large.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association will take a leadership role in opposing antisemitism.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association encourages all psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination of an antisemitic nature.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association recognizes the value of engaging in community consultation in order to amplify the perspectives of intersecting marginalized populations.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association will conduct regular impact assessments to ensure that our antisemitism policy addresses the harms of antisemitism along with intersecting forms of oppression.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association encourages research to better understand the characteristics, causes, and consequences of antisemitism.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the American Psychological Association will include appropriate information on antisemitism in its multicultural and diversity training material and activities, and that diversity and multicultural efforts will take cognizance of antisemitism and will attempt to overcome it.

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## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

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## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

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## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

### Expected Outcomes/Products:

- That APA will take a leadership role in opposing antisemitism.
- That APA will encourage all psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination of an antisemitic nature.
- That APA will include appropriate information on antisemitism in its training materials and activities consistent with this policy.

Expected Outcomes/Products: Define the expected outcome or product if the main motion is approved.

### APA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (APPROVED BY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024)

Utilize psychological science to make a positive impact on critical societal issues.	Elevate the public's understanding, appreciation and utilization of psychology.
Prepare the field of psychology for current and future opportunities and challenges.	Strengthen APA's role as a leading voice for psychology.

Please explain how this new business item advances one or more of the above strategic priorities\*:

**By endorsing this updated resolution against antisemitism, we will have more accurate information to drive our work in combating antisemitism. This will allow us to both utilize psychological science to make a positive impact on critical societal issues, and to strengthen APA's role as a leading voice for psychology.**

*\*Please keep in mind the guiding and operating principles which can be found at <https://www.apa.org/about/apa/strategic-plan>.*

### GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

These guidelines apply to all resolutions submitted to Council for consideration. The following information must be provided: (1) The purpose and rationale for the resolution stated clearly, and documenting its relevance to psychology or psychologists; (2) The issue's importance to psychology or to society as a whole; (3) Representative scientific or empirical findings related to the resolution; (4) The extent to which the resolution is consistent with APA's guiding principles, and the extent to which it addresses human rights, health and welfare, and ethics; (5) The likelihood of the resolution having a constructive impact on public opinion or policy.

Resolutions approved by Council are understood to reflect what APA values or believes and, in most cases, does not commit APA to any action. If approval of the resolution requires that specific action be taken, the following information must also be provided: (6) Suggestions on how it should be implemented, if it is passed; (7) Breakdown of staff resources or association funds needed to implement the resolution.

### DESIGNATE COSIGNER(S):

1. Brad Olson, PhD, Division 48 Council Rep.
2. Moshe Brownstein, MSW, Division 39 Member
3. Ally Hand, MA, Collaborative of Jewish Psychologists, Divisions 5, 29, 44, APAGS
4. Musya Herzog, PhD, Smol Emuni US (Orthodox Jews for Justice)
5. Stephen Soldz, PhD, Divisions 19, 39, 48 Member, Former COR for Division 39

## 2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

6. **Orna Guralnik, PsyD, NYU Postdoctoral Program Faculty, Showtime/Paramount**
7. **Sarah Herzog, PhD, Columbia University Dept. of Psychiatry**
8. **Lizabeth Roemer, PhD, Division 12 Fellow**
9. **Jane Paley, PsyD, Division 48 Member**
10. **Alissa Hochman, PhD, Divisions 9, 45, and 48 Member**
11. **Anna Kramarsky, PhD, Division 39 Member**
12. **Almas Merchant, PhD, Division 39 Council Representative**
13. **Kritika Dwivedi, PsyD, Division 39 Council Representative**
14. **Sherry Wang, PhD, Division 45 Council Representative**
15. **Lynne Layton, PhD, Division 39 Member**

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