



Statement of Solidarity and Support

The mission of NCSSFL is to provide leadership in facilitating and promoting policies and practices that support language education. While language is at the heart of communication, central to our mission is the development of intercultural awareness and competence, both within and across borders. Together these skills provide a window to understanding perspectives of others, building relationships, and cultivating empathy. As our nation is experiencing anguish, pain, anger, and outrage that no language can convey, we stand in solidarity with those seeking justice, and with those who have experienced unjustified violence spawned from hatred and bigotry.

While we recognize as an organization the value of all lives and cultures, we must tend first to those whose existence is being threatened by forces of intolerance, inequity, bias, and racism. When the fire is burning, the first priority is the house in flames, not the houses that are already secure.

We are dedicated to the development of communication skills and intercultural understanding for all, and we condemn all acts of prejudice and hate. We call on the members of all local, state, national, and global communities to look beneath the surface of culture; examine and reject reflexive reactions and stereotypical beliefs that fuel fear and hatred; engage in the difficult conversations; and advocate for equal justice for all.