

AGS Statement on Discrimination

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) believes in a just society, one where all people are full members of our communities and entitled to equal protection and treatment. A just society is key to our mission—improving the health, independence, and quality of life of all older people—and our vision for a world where we are all able to contribute to our communities and maintain our health, safety, and independence as we age. That world is one where older people have access to high-quality, person-centered care informed by geriatrics principles and free of all ageism.

The AGS stands against discrimination, harassment, prejudice, systemic injustice, and violence targeting any individual because of who they are—including their age, ancestry, creed, cultural background, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, immigration status, nationality, marital and/or familial status, primary language, race, religion, socioeconomic status, sex, and/or sexual orientation. Legislation, orders, or policies that single out or target groups or individuals—implicitly or explicitly—impede the progress we have made, and must continue to make, as we improve health for us all as we age.

Discrimination in Healthcare

As an organization representing thousands of geriatrics health professionals who are pioneers in advanced-illness care for older people, with a focus on championing interprofessional teams, eliciting personal care goals, and treating older people as whole persons, we value the significant contributions of colleagues from diverse backgrounds to achieving our vision. Supporting a diverse eldercare workforce supports us all as we age.

For the millions of older adults and caregivers our members serve, we further oppose discrimination or disparate treatment of any kind in any healthcare setting because of age, ancestry, cultural background, disability, ethnic origin, gender, gender identity, immigration status, nationality, marital and/or familial status, primary language, race, religion, socioeconomic status, and/or sexual orientation. We believe such discriminatory policies—especially when they are perpetuated across the healthspan and lifespan—can have a negative impact on public health for us all.

About the American Geriatrics Society

Founded in 1942, the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) is a nationwide, not-for-profit society of geriatrics healthcare professionals that has—for more than 75 years—worked to improve the health, independence, and quality of life of older people. Its nearly 6,000 members include geriatricians, geriatric nurses, social workers, family practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and internists. The Society provides leadership to healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public by implementing and advocating for programs in patient care, research, professional and public education, and public policy. For more information, visit AmericanGeriatrics.org.