

Only Solidarity Can Save Us: XENOPHOBIA AND COVID-19

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As the world responds to the uneven impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic, a second threat follows in its wake: a racist reactionism that stigmatizes migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and foreigners as the cause of the outbreak. Xenophobic responses to the crisis are not only deceptive and vicious but also a threat to public health. Decades of research proves that islamophobia, sinophobia and anti-immigrant rhetoric causes illness and premature death. In general, exposure to discrimination can be traumatizing, causing long-lasting mental and health effects. In contexts of global health crises, falsely blaming groups who are already health compromised and often under-resourced to prevent contagion, threatens public health by driving the virus underground and making it more difficult to maintain.

This class separates fact from fiction with a focus on the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic has been politicized by xenophobic leaders to advance political gains. As health workers fight for appropriate supplies and protections, nationalist leaders across Europe and the United States are attempting to escalate repressive border policies. Meanwhile asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants around the world—who have had nothing to do with the spread of COVID-19—face increased discrimination and attacks. Blaming vulnerable groups creates compound

health risks and putting unnecessary pressure on our over-stretched health resources. To prevent spread, the international community must band together to provide appropriate care and human rights for all patients.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Evaluate how the negative effects of the current pandemic can be deepened by patterns of racial and gendered health disparities caused by structural violence
2. Outline the compounding health risks to people of color that are created by racist and xenophobic reactions to the crisis.

COURSE INFORMATION

This will be a hybrid style course with **1-hour online via Zoom** followed by a **1-hour home study** that can be completed on the same day for a total of **2 hours of continuing education credits**. After registering at nationalnursesunited.org/ce, you will receive an invitation to the Zoom class via email. It is important that you respond to the invitation and register for the Zoom class prior to the day of the class. If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Gonzalez at vgonzalez@calnurses.org.

DATES & TIMES

Friday, May 1
12:00-1:00 p.m. (PT)

Friday, May 15
4:00-5:00 p.m. (PT)

Friday, June 5
12:00-1:00 p.m. (PT)

Friday, June 19
4:00-5:00 p.m. (PT)

2 CEH Class

ONLINE REGISTRATION

nationalnursesunited.org/ce

FOR QUESTIONS

Contact CE Coordinator
Valerie Gonzalez
vgonzalez@calnurses.org

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for 2 contact hours.

