

Climate Change Statement

November 2018

The American Counseling Association (ACA) acknowledges that climate change and its consequences impact mental health and wellness for individuals, families, communities, and can disrupt social support systems and cultural traditions. Furthermore, the ACA affirms the UN Human Rights Commission and the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recognition that the impact of climate change poses a clear threat to the full and effective enjoyment of human rights, including the right to mental health and wellness. Moreover, the ACA stands in alliance with all individuals who have been and will be impacted by climate change and supports counselors who work to address the needs of those most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

Therefore, it is hereby resolved that the ACA affirms and recognizes the important role that counselors play in understanding the psychological impact of climate change and its effect on clients, families, and the communities that they serve. This includes but is not limited to encouraging research, education, and advocacy efforts pertaining to the psychological, behavioral, cultural and ethical implications of climate change and its subsequent impact on human behavior and global relations.