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Statement on Florida USA Hosting our Caritas Community Conference

Watson Caring Science Institute stands with all the communities we serve who are vulnerable to acts of prejudice, violence, and discrimination. The insidious and persistent discrimination present in our nation denies its residents equal rights, equal access, and basic humanity. Although WCSI is a politically neutral organization, discrimination and exclusion of people based on race is not a political argument; there are no sides to this debate. Freedom from oppression is a human right. Access to opportunity, peace, and prosperity should be available to all.

We are deeply concerned about the destructive, pervasive heartless acts on Black, Indigenous, underserved and minority communities, within the state of Florida, and unfortunately nation-wide (there seems to be no end to it). In our lives and work, we aim to provide access to these voices and look for ways to dismantle the injustices embedded in our social and political institutions, including our own.

Our decision to host our conference was considered in several ways. At our recent Board Meeting this decision was considered thoughtfully and it was agreed to move forward, honoring each individuals decision to attend. Recognizing WCSI as a non-profit, it is now registered in the State of Florida. Our offices are based here, which keeps our costs down, especially regarding hotel rooms and setting up the Caring Store.

Another key point within the WCSI mission is to respond to its broader [global](#) community, which expands our national borders, and is particularly pertinent to our Florida location for access. As part of our diversity and inclusion and equity commitments, we have created an inclusive, diverse multi-national conference, accessible for our Latino-Iberoamérica ([WCSI LIA](#)) colleagues, who can fly easily into Miami. WCSI LIA now reaches 11 Countries, with very active and engaged colleagues from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia, México, Panamá, Perú, Uruguay, and including Spain and Portugal.

Additionally, from the evaluation of our last Caritas Conference in 2023 held in Boulder CO, 80.4% of 97 respondents shared that they would attend in Florida.

Our work transcends political argument and deals with our overall humanity and is based on the Caritas Principles especially sustaining humanistic-altruistic values by practice of loving-kindness, compassion, and equanimity with self/others.

Please know, we praise you for your valued and considered decision whatever that may be. We thank you for your integrity, honesty, and continued support of Caring Science and WCSI.

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