



Biden's Response to Anti-Asian Hate

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United States President, Joe Biden, has spoken out against anti-Asian hate and violence by making a statement to combat this with a proposal of actions. During this challenging time the United States is facing, there is an increased rate of hate crimes, especially towards Asians. The COVID-19 crisis created a very substantial prejudice against Asians. Biden released a statement condemning Asian hate crimes. He also introduced new legislation to combat violence targeted at Asians, primarily during the pandemic. In this speech, Biden says that

“The conversation we had today with the AAPI leaders, and that we’re hearing all across the country is that hate and violence often hide in plain sight. And it’s often met with silence. That’s been true throughout our history, but that has to change-- because our silence is complicity. We cannot be complicit. We have to speak out. We have to act.”
(Biden, 2021)

This message is compelling and meaningful for the entire community and country to hear in a time of distress and uncertainty. Although it is essential to listen to the words that peace is



needed and there is no room for violence or hate in America, it is crucial these words come to play. The proposals were released in the announcement. There will be funding for AAPI survivors of domestic violence and survivors of sexual assault by allocating \$49.5 million. In addition, there are plans to establish a full coronavirus equity task force council to address and combat xenophobia on



Asian Americans. That will include ensuring that an equitable pandemic response and recovery be put in place. Also, there will be a department of justice cross-agency initiative to speak about anti-Asian violence. On top of that, there will be \$33 million of investments to have critical research that will prevent bias and xenophobia against Asian American communities.

Throughout this challenging time of living through a pandemic, the Asian community has seen their community hated, destructed, and shamed. Biden states, “For more than a year, far too many Asian Americans have woken up each morning increasingly fearful for their safety and the safety of their loved ones.” (Farivar, 2021) This fear is something that no person deserves to endure. This violence must be stopped, and President Biden is on a mission to take action to do so.



In response to a hate-filled country, the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act is an amendment introduced to the senate by Biden to establish an entirely new Department of Justice position that would expedite the reviews of COVID-19 related hate crimes. The Act will create a layer of support for law enforcement agencies to more readily be able to respond to this awful violence. Although a piece of legislation cannot change history and cannot fully change the future, what it can do is bring the USA that much closer to peace and equality. It is very important to address that Asian American women and girls have been affected the most by this extreme hate. The half a dozen proposals that Biden made are said to be sure to help women and girls. Each of these acts is being put into place so Asian Americans feel comfortable in their own homes and communities.

While these proposed actions will definitely help in a lean towards equality and peace, there is still a lot of room for advancement. Tammy Duckworth believes that Biden should “appoint more Asian Americans to his Cabinet.” (Wise, 2021) The initiatives proposed do not include a demand for more leadership representation yet, Jen Psaki assured the U.S. that there



would be a “high-level... member of the AAPI community to a position in the White House.” (Wise, 2021) A message promising to the community is that Psaki said there would be meetings

with AAPI leaders to hear how the government can have constructive and supportive roles in society. All in all, the plans to combat Anti-Asian violence and hate will help send a strong message about the topic. Bringing more attention to the core of the problem will lead to increased change and amendments



to America’s current legislation and society. “The Biden Administration is committed to working hand in hand with Asian American leaders, civil rights organizers, and communities to advance fairness, opportunity, and inclusion for all.” (White House, 2021) The demonstrated dedication to fix a broken system comes off as assuring, yet there are still many spots for revision.



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