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-----PART 1-----

Hey everyone,

We'd like to take two minutes of your busy day to ask you to make a difference by donating to Stop Asian American & Pacific Islander Hate at <https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=14711> Though anti-Asian racism is nothing new, hate crimes against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have increased by 150% in the past year compared to pre-COVID times. These have included horrendous acts, such as an elderly Asian woman being set on fire, six Asian women being shot by a terrorist, and countless other instances of physical violence towards Asian Americans.

Sharing racist incidents on social media helps dispel the myth that Asian Americans don't experience violent crime or racism. We believe in all of you to not only raise awareness, but to take action to protect Asian lives. Below you will find easy-to-read sections with

1. safe ways to deescalate and report incidents if you see anti-Asian racism
2. necessary and helpful information on the history of anti-Asian legislation and harmful myths about the Asian American experience today

3. actionable steps to increase POC solidarity, addressing anti-Blackness and its causes from white supremacy, history of Asian-Black relations, community intervention instead of policing
4. donation links and petitions to push media outlets to amplify coverage of the recent rise in racially motivated assaults.
5. additional condensed valuable educational information to stop AAPI hate:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lk5Eyrv655P_XpsvgZuIHA414EINsua41E-K-_XOFpU/edit#heading=h.oyblx7k3s9fv

Please use this pinned post as a thread to share your links in the comments. Remember to provide a brief description of the resource as well, since unfortunately, there have been some fraudulent fundraisers circulating the web (e.g. if it's a fundraiser, please state specifically where donations go and how that helps).

Sign this Change.org petition [Stop Hate Against Asian Americans](#) that calls on mainstream media outlets to amplify coverage of the recent rise in racially motivated assaults.

[End Hate Crimes Against Asian Americans](#) urges New York law enforcement and elected officials to sufficiently address the violent crimes against the AAIP communities.

What To Do If You See Anti-Asian Racism

Bystander Intervention Training: Advancing Justice-AAJC and Hollaback! partnered to **create a guide** that offers strategies for de-escalating situations.

The guide includes suggestions such as

1. starting a conversation with the target to provide a distraction,

2. finding assistance from someone else in the area,
3. taking out your phone to record the incident on video,
4. or if it is unsafe to engage during the incident, checking in with the victim and offering support after the harassment.

Report Incidents: If you witness a hate incident or are the victim of a hate incident, report it to **Stop AAPI Hate** and **Stand Against Hatred** so that data can be used for education and advocacy. If this is an emergency, you should always dial 911.

Source:

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/asian-american-racism-violence-1127876/>

Educate Yourself on the History of Anti-Asian Racism. Racism Against AAPIs Isn't New.

- Read **this article about the history of anti-Asian legislation** in American history.
- **Watch PBS Asian Americans**, a five-part docuseries about different aspects of the Asian American experience.
- Learn about **the diversity of Asian cultures** and the unique socio-economic issues within each community.
- **#AsianAmCovidStories** is a YouTube documentary series exploring Asian Americans' experiences and challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic.

POC Solidarity & Addressing Anti-Blackness

It's not that Asian-Black tensions or racial hierarchies don't exist today but, there is a failure to remember what got America to this place of racial hierarchies and lingering Black-Asian tensions: white supremacy. White supremacy is what created segregation, policing, and scarcity of resources in low-income neighborhoods, as well as the creation of the "model minority" myth — all of which has driven a wedge between Black and Asian communities. In fact, it is white Christian nationalism, more than any other ideology, that has shaped xenophobic and racist views around Covid-19, according to [a recent study](#). And for Black and Asian American communities to move forward, it is important to remember the root cause and fight together against it.

1. **Interrupt generalizations:** If someone says, "Asians are anti-Black," say "Anti-Blackness is a pervasive issue within the Asian community and many Asians have been working within their own community to address and challenge this. Have you been following their work?" If someone says, "Black people hate Asians," say, "Your generalization of an entire community based on a few examples is harmful. There are plenty of Black people fighting in solidarity with Asian people right now. Do you know them?"
2. **Interrupt the active and persistent erasure of Black and Asian solidarity work.** When Black people say "Asians never show up for us," or when Asian people say, "Black people don't care about us," talk about how throughout history, our solidarity work has been erased deliberately and intentionally by our education system and the media to worsen the divide.

We need to amplify these [examples](#) and these examples <https://medium.com/advancing-justice-aajc/black-and-asian-solidarity-in-american-history-the-power-of-unity-exemplified-by-5-major-events-391025bbf228> of solidarity to heal and build trust together. For instance, Grace Lee Boggs (1915–2015) and Yuri Kochiyama (1921–2014), were two Asian American women activists heavily involved in activism surrounding abolition and liberation who were unlikely taught in history textbooks.

3. **Invest in community-based interventions.** Contrary to what some may believe, enhancing our contact with the police is [not a long-term solution](#) that will keep our community safe. Despite its 2-block proximity to the Oakland Police Department, Oakland Chinatown is not “safe” as evidenced by the increased attacks against its residents and businesses. Just in December, [Christian Hall](#), a 19-year old Asian teen in Pennsylvania, was shot by the state police while having a mental health crisis. [Asians are among the fastest growing undocumented populations](#) in the U.S., and those who fear deportation and criminalization will not be safe in the presence of more police. Even when the police are called, our incidents rarely get documented correctly or acted upon with a sense of urgency. Neighborhoods with heavy police presence are not safer. Neighborhoods with access to quality medical and mental health care, financial support, food and shelter, education, are. Rather than calling for more policing, FBI surveillance, and funneling money towards the deeply racist criminalization system that seeks to uphold white supremacy, invest time, [money](#), and energy into creating and supporting

community-based interventions that seek to keep *all* of us safe.

Source:

<https://medium.com/awaken-blog/on-anti-asian-hate-crimes-who-is-our-real-enemy-207ee7354926>

Resources:

- "How to talk to your Asian immigrant parents about racism while considering their lived experiences"
- "How to talk to parents about race if you're adopted or multiracial"
- Resources for Asian Americans learning about anti-Blackness by Asians American Advancing Justice - AAJC.

Source:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-racism-resources-support-asian-american-pacific-islander-community-n1260467>

Donate to Nonprofits

There's a long list of nonprofits dedicated to supporting, empowering, and serving the AAIP communities. In addition to donating your time to these causes, you can show your support through much-needed monetary contributions. We've listed a few notable organizations below.

Mekong NYC: A Bronx-based coalition working to improve the lives of NYC's Southeast Asian community.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice: One of the country's largest legal advocacy groups committed to protecting the civil rights of Asian-Americans.

CAAAV: Organizing Asian Communities: A pan-Asian community nonprofit that supports poor, working class Asian immigrants and refugees.

Womankind: Formerly known as the New York Asian Women's Center, this organization provides services and resources to survivors of abuse, with an emphasis on assisting those within the Asian community.

Apicha CHC: A community health center that provides medical services to underserved communities, including AAPIs, Blacks, and Latinos.

Apex for Youth: An education-based organization that seeks to empower Asian-American youth through mentorship programs.

<https://www.gofundme.com/c/act/stop-aapi-hate>

<https://secure.donationpay.org/aajc/>

-----PART 2-----

Recognize Why Racism Against Asian Americans Might Not Be Easy to See

Many members of the AAPI community have long said they feel the need to “prove” they experience racism, and social media has been somewhat of a game changer in terms of being able to offer “receipts.” Though experts say the fact the community even feels compelled to do so points to a larger problem.

“Asians have had a harder time proving racism in a large part because, in general, [people still don’t know the history and struggles of Asian Americans](#),” Stewart Kwoh, president emeritus of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, said previously. “That’s the overwhelming problem we have to confront as a society.”

Sharing racist incidents on social media helps dispel the myth that Asian Americans don’t experience violent crime or racism, said Manjusha Kulkarni, executive director at the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council and a co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, told NBC Asian America.

“The enormous force of the model minority myth — that you’re all doing well, that your issues are not the same as others who are really suffering — is what we’re fighting against,” she said.

Don't Dilute Language When Talking About Hate Crimes and Racism, but Be Accurate

Factual information is essential to furthering conversations about racism in a productive way, said Russell M. Jeung, a professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. He points to specific suggestions surrounding terminology.

"'Xenophobia' assumes we're foreigners, so call it 'racism'," Jeung said. "And don't call it 'anti-Asian sentiment' because sentiment is all warm and fuzzy. Call it 'Asian hate,' because that's what it is."

Be clear on the difference between a hate or a bias incident and a hate crime -- that a bias incident might involve an act like a slur and a hate crime is a physical act of violence that shows racial motivation. Public mislabeling of incidents can have an impact on a jury and lead to a greater sentence for a suspect. [The distinction between these terms is essential, experts say.](#)

"Hate crimes are really narrowly defined as crimes for which you can be arrested with a racial bias there," Jeung said. "It's not an indicator of the level and extent of racism occurring."

Experts say that the conversation around anti-Asian American hate must include incidents besides hate crimes and that just because an act is not categorized as such doesn't diminish its significance.

Resources:

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC's [tool for reporting hate incidents](#) and Stop AAPI Hate's [tool for reporting hate incidents](#).
- [Learn what makes a hate crime](#) from the U.S. Department of Justice.
- [Learn about coded language](#) from the National Education Association's EdJustice.

If someone uses the phrase "China virus," arm yourself with an argument against it

Experts have pointed out that it's a sign of progress that we no longer name viruses after their country of origin.

"Just because certain terms have been used in the past doesn't make it appropriate now. [We know that language evolves](#)," Yang said in a past interview. "Certainly, there are terms that have been used in the past, whether in the health context or also elsewhere, that we all recognize have become inaccurate, anachronistic or inappropriate."

He pointed out that we no longer uphold the tradition of naming hurricanes only after women. [From about 1953 to 1978, common female names were chosen for storms](#). Feminist activist Roxcy Bolton fought to

end the practice as she and others saw the harmful rhetoric that resulted.

History of Asian-Black Relations

When newcomers enter the country, they encounter a system that reserves the best for wealthy, white Americans, engendering resentment and zero-sum thinking among everyone else for whatever is left.

The conflict between Korean Americans and Black Americans is one of the most visible examples of this phenomenon.

In 1965, the United States ended the quota-based system of immigration and began to push for high-skilled labor to enter the country. One group that was able to enter the country were Korean Americans who were hyper-selected — that is, they had much higher socioeconomic and educational attainment relative not only to their country of origin but also to the native-born US population.

Yên Lê Espiritu, a professor of sociology who specializes in Asian American studies at the University of California San Diego, explained how this highly educated population came to the United States and was often unable to replicate the social status that they enjoyed in their home country due to racial discrimination and other barriers. Instead, they found employment as small-business owners, opening up shops in predominantly Black communities.

"Many of these immigrants didn't intend to be small businessmen. The structural context is that Korean immigrants couldn't regain the employment and educational status they once held," Espiritu told Vox. Their proximity to Black people was because they were only able to start

businesses in “economically disadvantaged areas.” This, coupled with the fact that anti-Black racism in financing meant Black people often couldn’t start their own businesses, sparked bitterness on both sides.

Espiritu added that an additional barrier was that both groups had already been primed to mistrust each other. As Koreans consumed American media, they internalized the racist depictions of Black Americans as violent, uneducated, and poor — similarly, Black Americans had watched (with the rest of America) as Koreans were depicted as untrustworthy during the Korean War.

Edward T. Chang, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California Riverside, explained the “middleman minority” theory, which helps further explain the tensions that arose at these Korean-owned businesses.

“‘Middleman minority’ is a term derived from the historical experiences of Jews in Europe and Chinese in Southeast Asia and Asian Indians in Africa,” Chang told Vox. Middlemen minorities exist between dominant and subordinate groups in society and often hold professions heavily concentrated in the retail and service industries like grocery markets and liquor stores, he explained.

These groups often have daily contact with one another in a way that white Americans often do not due to segregated neighborhoods, shopping centers, and schools. Between the racist stereotypes both groups have internalized and the linguistic and cultural barriers separating them, it’s little surprise the continual interactions could lead to conflict.

In America’s collective memory, the most notable such collision occurred during the 1992 Los Angeles riots sparked by the acquittal of four white

LAPD officers after they were videotaped beating Rodney King, a Black man. Over the following week, more than 50 people were killed and 1,000 were injured in the uprising that showcased not only anger at the verdict but also longstanding resentments between Black and Korean communities in the LA area. According to [CNN](#), roughly half a billion dollars' worth of damage was borne by Korean-owned businesses.

Many believe the 1992 riots are emblematic of the relations between Black Americans and Asian Americans despite being the product of a specific time and place. After the riots, churches and community organizers worked to educate the two communities on their shared histories of oppression — many Korean business owners, for example, were unaware of the violence and discrimination Black people have faced in America.

More details on Black and Asian American tensions and solidarity history here:

<https://www.vox.com/22321234/black-asian-american-tensions-solidarity-history>

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/opinion/2021/02/12/anti-asian-attack-justice/>

<https://medium.com/awaken-blog/on-anti-asian-hate-crimes-who-is-our-real-enemy-207ee7354926>

<https://medium.com/advancing-justice-aajc/black-and-asian-solidarity-in-american-history-the-power-of-unity-exemplified-by-5-major-events-391025bbf228>

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2021/03/11/why-the-trope-of-black-asian-conflict-in-the-face-of-anti-asian-violence-dismisses-solidarity/>

<https://www.vox.com/22321234/black-asian-american-tensions-solidarity-history>

Resources:

- "How to talk to your Asian immigrant parents about racism while considering their lived experiences"
- "How to talk to parents about race if you're adopted or multiracial"
- Resources for Asian Americans learning about anti-Blackness by Asians American Advancing Justice - AAJC.

Recognize that the fight against anti-Asian racism needs to be inclusive

Although the current moment is focused on hate incidents and crimes as a result of language such as "China virus," many Asian American subgroups have long been the targets of racism as well. Groups such as South Asian Americans and Southeast Asian Americans face other challenges and issues that are often hidden by the model minority myth, the belief that all Asian Americans are successful.

Support and seek resources from a broad range of AAPI advocacy groups, such as [South Asian Americans Leading Together \(SAALT\)](#), which focuses on public policy analysis, advocacy and community building; [The National Federation of Filipino American Associations \(NaFFAA\)](#), which develops young leaders, urges political participation and supports small businesses; [the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance \(NQAPIA\)](#), which promotes visibility and provides education and tools to tackle homophobia and racism; the [Sikh American Legal Defense & Education Fund \(SALDEF\)](#), a media and educational organization that promotes civic and political participation; and [Empowered Pacific Islander Communities \(EPIC\)](#), which seeks to empower Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities through advocacy and research.

Sources

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/asian-american-racism-violence-1127876/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-racism-resources-support-asian-american-pacific-islander-community-n1260467>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/2021/03/17/violence-against-asians-on-the-rise-how-be-ally-to-community-amid-racism/4730202001/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/anti-asian-hate-crimes-increased-nearly-150-2020-mostly-n-n1260264>

Consolidated by Rachel Wang