

3/26/2021 - A Statement and Call to Action Regarding Racism Against Asian Americans

APAMSA (Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association) at Carle Illinois College of Medicine stands in solidarity with the members of our own community that are suffering from the rise in hate crimes related to the Anti-Asian racism that has been stoked by the COVID-19 pandemic. We condemn the recent attacks on members of the AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) community, including but not limited to the recent shootings in Atlanta, Georgia and the targeted attacks on the elderly. We recognize that these violent attacks are a part of a long history of Anti-Asian rhetoric and discrimination in our country. We also recognize the negative effects that the COVID 19 pandemic has on all minority groups and marginalized communities and the need for us to support one another through this difficult time.

Ever since the beginning of the pandemic, hate crimes against Asian Americans have increased 150%. Stereotypes about food practices or being “perpetual foreigners” allowed our community to easily be scapegoated as the cause of the pandemic. Names like “kung flu” or “China virus” were used by prominent elected officials in our country to draw attention to the geographical origins of the virus. Stop AAPI Hate, a nonprofit organization, has logged over 3,795 hate incidents against AAPI in the first 11 months of the pandemic with 11.1 percent of those incidents being physical assaults. From January to February 2021, elderly Asian Americans have been the victims of targeted assault, with some being severely injured or even killed as a result. In March 2021, a shooting involving three Asian owned massage parlors resulted in the deaths of 8 people, 6 of them AAPI women. We recognize that the recent uptick in Anti-Asian hate crimes is only the latest chapter in a long history of Anti-Asian racism in the United States, including but not limited to the incarceration of Japanese Americans, post 9/11 attacks, and the eerily similar upticks in racist attacks against the Asian diaspora during the 2002 SARS pandemic. We also recognize that violence against AAPI women is especially heinous. American imperialism in Asia, fetishization and dehumanization have led to AAPI women being subject to sexual and violent racially motivated harassment and assault.

The recent attacks have wreaked incalculable damage to our communities. We mourn the loss of our elders, the cornerstones of our communities. We mourn the loss of our sisters, mothers, and aunts, many of whom selflessly took care of us as immigrants in an unfamiliar country. We condemn the attacks on our cultural heritage, stories, and humanity by the racist language of the prior administration and larger American culture, painting us as nothing more than stereotypes, and AAPI women as objects of sexual fantasy. We demand better from our countrymen, and from the medical community, which is over 17% Asian. It is our professional responsibility to not only protect our most vulnerable patients, but to support each other.

How you can help

We, APAMSA at Carle Illinois, recognize that as future medical professionals, we have an obligation to support our colleagues, our patients and ourselves. For many, an attack on a community can feel like a direct attack on an individual, and we recognize the trauma that can be inflicted on both our members and our patients. We urge those within our communities and our allies to help however they can. This can look like:

1. Using nonviolent approaches to de-escalate incidents of harassment. Information on how to react to racist events is available via [Hollaback! Free Bystander Intervention Training \(ihollaback.org\)](https://ihollaback.org) or [How to Respond to Coronavirus Racism | Learning for Justice](#)

2. Reporting hate crimes or incidents when they happen to you or those around you. This can be done via law enforcement or online at [Report Now — Stand Against Hatred](#) or [STOP AAPI HATE](#)
3. Calling out any racist language when it is spoken around you and understanding the implications of using terms like “China virus” or scapegoating AAPI for the pandemic.
4. Supporting organizations that are uplifting Asian American communities and other minority or marginalized communities (list on second page)
5. Checking in on those around you.

In solidarity,

APAMSA at Carle Illinois College of Medicine

Organizations to support or donate to

(This is by no means an exhaustive list and is in no particular order. Use this as a guide to find an organization whose mission you resonate with.)

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Asian Law Caucus \(advancingjustice-alc.org\)](#) - Founded in 1972, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus is the nation’s first legal and civil rights organization serving the low-income Asian Pacific American communities.

[AALDEF](#) - The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a New York-based national organization founded in 1974, protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans.

[STOP AAPI HATE](#) - Documents hate incidents against AAPI

[A3PCON - Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council](#) - The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) Community in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population.

[Asian Mental Health Collective \(asianmhc.org\)](#) - The Asian Mental Health Collective aspires to make mental health easily available, approachable, and accessible to Asian communities worldwide.

[#TheyCantBurnUsAll](#) - Dedicated to bringing together AAPI communities to fight racism

[API Women | AAPI Women Lead | United States \(imreadymovement.org\)](#) - Aims to strengthen the progressive political and social platforms of Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the US through the leadership of self-identified AAPI women and girls.

[Home - CAA \(caasf.org\)](#) - Chinese for Affirmative Action was founded in 1969 to protect the civil and political rights of Chinese Americans and to advance multiracial democracy in the United States.

[Compassion In Oakland](#) - Compassion in Oakland was formed in response to the surge of anti-Asian attacks -- particularly in California’s Bay Area. They strive to provide the Oakland Chinatown Community with a resource for promoting safety and community.

[AAPI Progressive Action](#) - AAPI Progressive Action works to empower Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, connect AAPI communities and their leaders, and promote awareness and action for progressive AAPI causes.

[Southern Poverty Law Center \(splcenter.org\)](https://splcenter.org) - The SPLC is a catalyst for racial justice in the South and beyond, working in partnership with communities to dismantle white supremacy, strengthen intersectional movements, and advance the human rights of all people.

[ADL: Fighting Antisemitism and Hate](#) – The ADL was founded to stop the defamation of the Jewish people, and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.

Resources

<https://ideas.ted.com/how-you-can-be-an-ally-in-the-fight-for-racial-justice/> - How to better be an ally to marginalized communities

[Stop Hate Project | Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law](#) – Hate crimes against any race or ethnicity can be reported here

[Ancestors in the Americas: Asian American History Timeline \(cetel.org\)](#) – Brief history of Asian Americans in the United States up until 1990's