



Dear APASA community and allies,

As we enter Lunar New Year and the Year of the Ox, we are called to be more grounded, logical, and intentional about our actions. We accept our strength and are fueled by our determination. The messages that the Ox brings ring loudly especially right now, as we look at the statistics of anti-Asian racism, xenophobia, and violence in this last year:

- Hate crimes against Asians and Asian Americans have increased by 1,900%
- 2,800 anti-Asian & anti-Asian American hate incidents were reported in 2020
- In recent weeks, over 20 assaults have occurred in Northern California alone.

Last April, we sent out a message to our communities and colleagues stating:

“We are disappointed & disturbed by discriminatory sentiments aimed at Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in the wake of this global pandemic. We also recognize that this is not a new phenomenon. Throughout history, Asians & Asian Americans have been wrongly targeted due to mass hysteria with the term “Yellow peril” since the 1800s.”

This all still holds true today. We would also be remiss if we did not name that our Middle Eastern, North African, and South/Southwest Asian peers have faced extreme harm due to xenophobia and Islamophobia over the years, as well. We also know that violence such as this exists everyday for marginalized communities, and especially for QTBIPOC. This imperialist, white supremacist, capitalist and transphobic patriarchy is not safe for any of us. And we will keep fighting to dismantle it.

Our communities are grieving and hurting, which is why it is important for us to hold space for processing trauma and grief and erasure.

At the same time, APASA wants to clearly state: we cannot use this crisis as an excuse to say racist and anti-Black things. **We will reject any narratives that seek to position Black, Asian, and people of color against each other.** Further, we can call for accountability for violence against our communities while also not calling for increased policing or surveillance.

As Pastor Erna Kim Hackett shared, “It is true that there is a lot of misunderstanding between our communities, and we’ve participated in each other’s oppression. White supremacy would make us enemies. And we are the keys to each other’s liberation.”

APASA is committed to the work of radical solidarity and radical liberation for all. It is complex, difficult, and necessary work.



White supremacy will have us believe that there is not enough liberation or freedom to go around, and that there is not enough room for all of our stories. This leads us AAPI folx to stay silent about our experiences with multiple forms of violence. This is no longer acceptable.

Annabelle Schmitt writes, “The truth is that there is space for all of us, for all of these discussions and movements. Not to mention, there are Black Asians, Black Pacific Islanders, and mixed race folx who are both Black and Asian. The idea that there isn’t enough is a construction of scarcity created by white supremacy to continue putting our communities against each other.”

Our calls to action for our AAPI community:

- Tell our stories so we can heal internalized invisibility, especially in our departments and networks.
- Take up space and let our grief be visible; stop letting white supremacy allow us to be passive.
- Condemn anti-Blackness and policing as solutions for accountability.
- Report hate incidents here: <https://stopaapihate.org/>
- Donate to relief and care funds.

Our calls to action for our non-Asian allies and colleagues:

- Confront and condemn anti-Asian racism, xenophobia & hateful speech.
- Include Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in your anti-racism work. We are not a model minority, we are not a monolith, and our stories and experiences deserve space, too.
- Spread awareness and support Asian communities.
- Donate to relief and care funds.

Our liberation comes from us, and it comes from working together.

In solidarity and love,

UC Davis Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance

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Sources:

- [*Dear Asian Youth*](#)
- [*Hate Crimes against Asian Americans*](#) (Zhang, et al 2021)
- [*Stop AAPI Hate Reports & Releases*](#)