

## Solidarity Statement – Supporting Communities Targeted for Hate

We, the undersigned civil rights and legal organizations, come together across different communities to stand in solidarity with Asian American and immigrant communities confronting a terrifying spike in COVID-19 related hate incidents. We call on our local, state, and national leaders to condemn this hate and to ensure communities have the resources necessary to combat this rise in hate and xenophobia. Throughout our history, too many have been targeted for discrimination, in many cases for generations, and often during times of great economic and social upheaval.

Just as we have seen in previous times of national crisis, some seek to take advantage of fear and pain to advance racist ideologies and policies, while also inspiring other acts of hate. Over the last several weeks, we have seen white supremacists and others seek to weaponize this fear and anxiety in order to advance their own hateful ideologies. There is a devastating spike in acts of hate targeting Asian Americans. We are also seeing an increase in the targeting of immigrants, the LGBTQ community, Muslims, Jews, people with disabilities, and people of color.<sup>1</sup>

Asian American civil rights organizations at the [national level](#),<sup>2</sup> organizations at the [state level](#),<sup>3</sup> and countless local community centers and service providers, are leading efforts to both document hate targeting the Asian American community and to serve the needs of the people targeted. While federal data regarding the increase is not yet available, the numbers these organizations are seeing over the last month look more like what they might see over a year.

Leaders must stop the use of anti-Asian terminology related to COVID-19 that does nothing to help people suffering from the virus in the United States, but rather perpetuates anti-Asian stigma that has inspired hate violence targeting the Asian American community. Leaders must ensure survivors of acts of hate and their families have the support they need following hate incidents and hate crimes. Local community organizations who serve people who are targeted for hate, as well as local law enforcement, must have the resources and training to prevent and respond more effectively to hate incidents and hate crime. Language access for law enforcement as well as anyone providing emergency response and recovery services is also critical.

Many of the people who are on the front lines of this crisis treating the sick as home health care workers, nurses, doctors, and technicians, and who are working on farms and in groceries, and in other parts of the service sector to ensure our country has the food and services it needs to survive, are from the same communities increasingly targeted for hate. In the face of hate, members of our communities are doing what we have done for generations, coming together in shared sacrifice to help people regardless of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability. This pandemic requires unity and working together with the resources we have to fight this virus. Therefore, we call on our leaders to join us in continuing to combat the hate and bigotry that threatens to divide us.

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<sup>1</sup> See ADL, <https://www.adl.org/blog/coronavirus-crisis-elevates-antisemitic-racist-tropes>; SPLC, <https://www.splcenter.org/hatewatch/2020/03/26/white-supremacists-see-coronavirus-opportunity>

<sup>2</sup> See [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#), <https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>; [OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates](#), <https://www.ocanational.org/aapi-hate-incident-form>

<sup>3</sup> [Chinese for Affirmative Action](#), <https://caasf.org/> and the [Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council \(A3PCON\)](#), <http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/list-of-members/>

## Signatories

9to5

ACCESS

African American Ministers in Action

Alt Consulting

America's Voice

American Association for Access, Equity and Diversity

American Civil Liberties Union

American Constitution Society

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Jewish Committee

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Andrew Goodman Foundation

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

APANO Communities United Fund

Arab American Institute

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote

Asian Health Coalition

Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Asian Pacific Health Foundation

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations

B'nai B'rith International

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

The Bonnie Morgan Foundation for HCV

Center for Disability Rights

Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Security, Race and Rights  
Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism - California State University, San Bernardino  
Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit  
The Council of Southeast PA  
Council on American-Islamic Relations  
Defending Rights & Dissent  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Education Law Center  
Engage Action  
Equality North Carolina  
Fair Count, Inc  
Faith in Public Life  
Family Equality  
Family Health Institute of Georgia  
Fund for Leadership, Equity, Access and Diversity  
Girls Inc.  
GoodWorks: North Alabama harm Reduction  
Heb B United  
Hep B United Philadelphia  
Hep Free Hawaii  
Hepatitis B Foundation  
The Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group, Inc.  
Hepatitis Education Project  
Hindu American Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
Human Rights Campaign  
Immunize Colorado  
Indiana Recovery Alliance  
International Care LLC

Japanese American Citizens League  
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Women International  
Justice in Aging  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
Lambda Legal  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
MALDEF  
Matthew Shepard Foundation  
Montgomery County (MD) Civil Rights Coalition  
Movement Advancement Project  
MPower Change  
Muslim Advocates  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc  
NALEO Educational Fund  
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Bar Association  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  
National Council on Independent living  
National Council of Jewish Women

National Disability Rights Network  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
National Women's Law Center  
Not in Our Town  
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates  
People for the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Portland United Against Hate  
Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness  
Public Citizen  
Reviving the Islamic Sisterhood for Empowerment  
Robert G Gish Consultants LLC  
San Francisco Hepatitis C Task Force  
SHK Global Health  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
The Sikh Coalition  
South Asian Network  
SPLC Action Fund  
SPM R&C  
UnidosUS

Union for Reform Judaism

United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries

United Mine Workers of America

United We Dream

Voices for Progress

Yemeni American Merchants association

YWCA USA