

Message from the Asian Pacific Islander Resource Group regarding COVID-19

The month of May marks the national Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and on behalf of the Asian Pacific Islander Resource Group (APIRG) at St. Mary's College, we celebrate this month with our beloved campus community. While we continue to find joy in our diverse and unique cultures across our many ethnic, religious, and national identities, we also stand together in marking this particular moment in our collective history. In the midst of all the challenges we face, API communities are both on the front lines of relief efforts and the targets of hate speech and hate crimes across the country. We are the essential workers in healthcare, food, and other industries. APIs also rely heavily on small business "mom and pop" shops as a means of economic mobility. Their closures translate into potential economic devastation for many families, who have little or no access to institutional safety nets, including adequate access to healthcare in many states. Yet, the public statements by government leaders and across social media in recent months have escalated into negative attitudes, hate speech, and even physical violence to API-owned businesses, homes, and individuals of all ages. Unfortunately, these attitudes and behaviors have been part of a long history of anti-API sentiment in this country since the 1800s. It has resulted in forced segregation and the burning of API enclaves, physical violence and murders of APIs, and policies and laws that were overtly targeted at API communities. The continual, unrestrained repetition of stereotypes in popular culture, academic research, and from leaders have reproduced these behaviors throughout our history and in the current crisis. These stereotypes include:

- 1) Model Minorities: assuming APIs are all wealthy and self-sufficient, passive and docile, and thus not needing help or support;
- 2) Yellow Peril: viewing APIs as a threat by carrying disease; as being moral and criminal threats; as always loyal to "Asia" rather than the U.S.; as intentionally "stealing" American jobs, wealth, educational opportunities to our landlords and bosses; as a competitive threat to American businesses that lead to unemployment and the closing of industries.
- 3) Perpetual or Forever Foreigner: The assumption that APIs are all new immigrants, and thus have not contributed to building this country, only "taking" from it. Consequently, they should not be entitled to the rights and privileges of citizenship and do not "belong" in this country.

These stereotypes have had tragic outcomes in our history, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the burning of API towns across the west coast in the early 1900s, the unjust incarceration of largely American citizen Japanese Americans during WWII, the brutal murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit in 1982, the brutal murder of Balbir Singh Sodhi in Arizona after 9/11, the deportations of Southeast Asian American refugees from the Viet Nam War, and many others.

The difference with COVID-19 is that it is happening now. We can stop this violence, and we can reject hate, toward APIs or any other group. We cannot celebrate our essential workers,

who are on the front lines saving lives and risking their lives, only to ignore the hate they and their communities are facing on the streets. Let's stand together to make sure they get the support they need with resources, economic relief, and respect in their communities.

In addition to sharing a link to events to celebrate the month, we wish to offer you these resources on the current experiences and discussions related to COVID-19 and APIs.

In peace and solidarity,
Ardi Samonte and Loan Dao, APIRG co-chairs

Some COVID-19 Related Resources

Reporting Site: APPICON Reporting Hate Crimes (multiple languages):
<http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/stop-aapi-hate/>

Reporting Site: AAJC Hate Incidents (stories):
<https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>

EdJustice: Standing Up to Hate and Bias Related to COVID-19 resources:
<https://neaedjustice.org/2020/03/30/standing-up-to-hate-and-bias-related-to-covid-19/>

JACL Anti-Asian Hate Crime Response Guide:
<https://jacl.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/When-Hate-Hits-You.pdf>

National Council of APAs:
http://www.ncapaonline.org/aapi_leaders_and_over_260_civil_rights_organizations_call_on_congress_to_denounce_anti_asian_racism

SEARAC statement:
<https://www.searac.org/our-voices/searac-statement-on-covid-19-pandemic/>

APALA statement:
<https://www.apalnet.org/covid19.html>

Advancing Justice statement:
<https://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/who-we-are/executive-directors-message/>

ADL statement:
<https://www.adl.org/blog/reports-of-anti-asian-assaults-harassment-and-hate-crimes-rise-as-coronavirus-spreads>

#Iamnotavirus campaign:
<https://www.kqed.org/arts/13877013/artists-fight-coronavirus-related-racism-on-instagram>

API & COVID-19 Articles

[NSC: AAPI Racism in the Age of COVID-19:](#)

[Track Us Better: Overlooked Pacific Islanders Hit Hard by Coronavirus](#)

[Boston Dr. Becomes Victim of COVID-19 Racism](#)

[Hate Crimes Surge against Asian Americans While They are on the Front Lines](#)

[More than 1400 Reports of Anti-Asian Racism, 1/3 from CA](#)

[Over 30% of Americans have witnessed COVID-19 bias against Asians, poll says](#)

[‘A tsunami of kindness:’ Vietnamese Americans launch nationwide giving campaign 45 years after Fall of Saigon](#)

[Justice Bradley's Reference to Korematsu is Insensitive and Offensive | Press Releases](#)

[Asian American woman harassed by self-identified Trump supporter thanks bystanders](#)

[Cosmetic executive apologizes for racist remarks against Vietnamese Americans](#)

[A Fifth Of California's Nurses Are Filipino. Their Burden Of The Coronavirus Pandemic Is Fast Emerging](#)

[New York City's unemployment rate among Asian Americans jumps 6,900%](#)

[Coronavirus kindness: South Bay, Google chef bakes thousands of Filipino breads for front-line workers, delivers them in a unique way amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

From Advancing Justice & Hollaback Bystander Intervention Training:

- [The 5D's of Bystander Intervention](#), by Hollaback!
- [Show Up, Your Guide to Bystander Intervention](#), by Hollaback! in collaboration with CUP
- [How to Respond to Street Harassment](#), by Hollaback!. Written to respond to gender-based harassment but the tactics are applicable to all forms of harassment. We'll be adapting these for the Asian/American community in the coming weeks.
- [Responding to Online Harassment, Do's and Don'ts](#) by Hollaback! in collaboration with #ICANHELP, Project HEAR, and the Dangerous Speech Project.
- [Self care guide](#) to healing from Online Harassment, by Hollaback!
- [Digital Safety](#) Guide, by Hollaback!

- [HeartMob](#), a platform where you can get support managing online harassment and/or support others experiencing it, by Hollaback!
- [Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources to Stand Against Racism](#), by Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Some APIHM virtual events

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival Virtual Showcase — Visual Communications

May 2020

<https://vcmedia.org/virtual>

Chicken Of The Sea: Story Time! With Viet Thanh Nguyen & Thi Bui

Saturday, May 16th at 2pm via Zoom

<https://www.facebook.com/PIVOTorg/photos/a.565407820335057/1275905905951908/?type=3&theater>

Advancing Justice & Hollaback! Free Bystander Intervention Trainings:

Multiple Dates/Times (May 13, 21, 30)

<https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

AAPIS IN 2020: ACCESSING SOCIAL SERVICES, CREATING CHANGE, & MAKING IMPACT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th 6:00PM-7:00PM

Facebook Live event: <https://www.facebook.com/OCAPICA>

Learn how COVID-19 is disrupting the daily lives of AAPIs in SoCal, from access to social services for unemployment, housing, and health, to fears about public charge.

Stand Up for Books Fundraiser:

Eastwind Books of Berkeley invites you to "Zoom in" to Stand Up for Books, a FUNdraiser showcasing the best in API comedy:

Featuring: Margaret Cho (legendary stand up comedian), Joel Kim Booster (NBC's Sunnyside), Sherry Cola (Freeform's Good Trouble), Jenny Yang (FOX's Last Man Standing), Andrew Orloff (Corden) and host Irene Tu (Vulture's Comedians You Should Know)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stand-up-for-books-comedy-fundraiser-tickets-104467645540>

National Park Service APIHM:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/asian-american-pacific-islander-heritage-month.htm>