



Statement on Violence toward Asian-American People

Dear CIMH Community Members,

The Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health (CIMH) has a deep value for diversity, and we embrace the diverse communities that make up the U.S. CIMH works to advocate for and stand with the many immigrant and refugee communities in the country. In that effort and as we work toward social justice, we hold the human rights of all community members sacred, and we stand with all who may be impacted negatively.

Today we stand with the Asian-American community who has experienced violent and heinous acts of racism and sexism. The latest incident of violence resulted in the death of six women murdered at their place of employment on March 16. These terrible crimes must stop. Although we appreciate the national coverage that is being received this past week, violence that targets Asian Americans is not new. Since 2020, violence and racism incidents have soared against the Asian community with nearly [4000 incidents reported and continuing](#). The [surge in violence against elderly Asian Americans](#) is also of deep concern. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) were publicly blamed for the COVID-19 virus by the former administration with derogatory references to the “Chinese” virus. Furthermore, the Human Rights Watch (2021) reported that attacks on Asians increased during the COVID quarantine period.

The issues surrounding this violence does not only involve anti-Asian racism, but also engages [fetishization](#), [racialized misogyny](#), [exploitation](#), [sexual violence](#), [poverty](#), [colonialism](#), [imperialism](#), [erasure](#), and layers of complex, interconnected traumas experienced by Asian women, men, and gender non-conforming individuals. We must acknowledge that Anti-Asian legislation has been a longstanding part of our immigration system, and our country has perpetuated a disregard for the richness and diversity of Asian history in the U.S. Beyond hate crimes and acts of terror, the Asian American community continues to experience the violence of being silenced as a group when they are ignored in public policies and when there is deliberate indifference to their experiences of racism.

The anti-Asian racism and violence must stop and we must dismantle the systems that sustain it. We stand together with the [HANA Center](#) and [Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago](#) in support of their local and national leadership.

Policy Action Steps!

We support [The Teaching Equitable Asian American Community History \(TEAACH Act, HB-376\)](#), which will:

1. Amend the Illinois School Code to include an Asian American History Curriculum in every public school in Illinois, ensuring that crucial stories and lessons, like the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans in the 1940s, are elevated; and

2. Ensure that Asian American stories and experiences are highlighted in Illinois, not just the stories of Asians outside the United States.

****[Email your legislators](#) today and tell them to support the TEAACH Act!****

We also support the [COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act](#) introduced by Sen. Hirono & Rep. Meng, which proposes legislation to assign a Department of Justice (DOJ) point person to expeditiously review and coordinate response to hate crimes & targeted violence towards Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

****Contact Senators Durbin and Duckworth to thank them for co-sponsoring this legislation!****

We stand together with other allies, and in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Asian community. The toll of these violent acts is oppressive and destructive to the wellbeing of this community and in the end, to the spirit and welfare of us all. During this time, let us find the ways we can support the community by voicing our care, by educating ourselves, and by standing in unity.

Below please find a list of concrete ways we can help, organizations to know and support, and information to share.

In Peace, Love, and Solidarity, [The CIMH Leadership Team](#)

Mental Health Resources

Asian American Mental Health Collective directory of APISAA therapists: <https://www.asianmhc.org/apisaa>

AAPA Division on Practice list of COVID-related mental health

resources: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GrseLJIOFiNOzeQT3X3aizokL-M4NvXp7vCP4W-jm8/edit?ts=5e88c7b1>

[Reduced fee therapy & support for Filipino/a/x & Asian community](#)

[Asian Mental Health Collective Crisis Line](#)

[Collective Grief & Support Space for Asian, Pacific Islander & South Asian Community](#)

Infographics and accompanying videos for helping AAPI families talk to children and teens exposed to anti-Asian bullying and harassment (developed for COVID-19 but also relevant now): <https://division45.org/division-45-task-force-on-covid-19-anti-asian-discrimination-and-xenophobia/>

[The Coalition for Immigrant Mental Health Resource Directory](#)

Additional Resources and Information on Building Awareness:

Stop AAPI Hate Reporting: <https://stopaapihate.org>

Anti-Asian Violence Resources <https://anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co/>

Asian Americans Advancing Justice Tracking Hate Stories: <https://www.standagainthatred.org/>

FACT SHEET- Anti-Asian Hate <https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/FACT%20SHEET-%20Anti-Asian%20Hate%202020%203.2.21.pdf>

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) Hate Crimes Task Force and Pro Bono Legal Resources: <https://www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources>

Free bystander intervention training to stop anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment: <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

[Anti-Racism Resources for the AAPI Community](#)

[How to Help Combat Anti-Asian American Violence](#)

[Boston College Racial Trauma Toolkit](#)

[Asian American Feminist Collective](#)

[Anti-Asian Violence Resources](#)

[How to be an ally & Help Asian Americans fight Anti-Asian Racism](#)

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice -Bystander Intervention Training for Anti-Asian Hate](#)

[Donate to the NAPAWF Georgia Chapter](#)

[Asian American Advocacy Fund](#)

[Red Canary Song](#)

[Being Anti-Racist includes acknowledging the Asian-American Experience](#)

[Resources to help Asian Americans in NYC](#)

Recent powerful statements in support of The Asian American Community

[The Hana Center in Chicago](#)

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice -Atlanta](#)

[National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum](#)