

**The APASA Steering Committee denounces the recent attacks against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities.** Anti-Asian racism is not a new phenomenon to our communities and has existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know throughout history that a person's or communities' race, ethnicity or origin can be used as the catalyst for hate and violence, and the rise in attacks and xenophobia across the country, especially for us in the Bay Area is alarming and weighs heavily on all of us. The national coalition, [Stop AAPI Hate](#), [documented 2,808 first-hand accounts](#) of anti-Asian hate incidents in 2020 (and these are just the ones reported). According to the [Chinese for Affirmative Action](#) organization, over 700 of these attacks occurred in the Bay Area.

We appreciate Chancellor Sam Hawgood and Vice Chancellor Renee Navarro for their [message on February 12](#), condemning the racially motivated attacks that have affected our community. The APASA Steering Committee recognizes that violence affects all of us, so we are partnering with the Office of Diversity and Outreach and other members and organizations in the larger UCSF community to create spaces for cross-racial healing and to address anti-Asian racism.

The “model minority” term can be traced back to our country's history during World War II and characterized Asian Americans as a monolithic law-abiding group that achieves economic success in the United States. This false narrative continues to be upheld today that our AAPI communities do not experience racism or discrimination, but actually have some of the [widest gaps in educational attainment and income and overrepresented in sectors affected by COVID-19](#). It is time to abolish this argument and actively work within our own AAPI communities to advocate and support anti-racism. We must also speak up to amplify issues of racism and strengthen our efforts in cross-racial solidarity with Black, Latinx, Indigenous and all communities of color to end white supremacy, xenophobia, health inequities, and the violence within and against our communities.

We cannot fight anti-Asian racism if we continue to excuse ourselves of responsibility and accountability to the trauma and violence of other communities of color and their struggles against systemic racism. Racial tension and violence will not go away unless we work together to help protect all of our communities and demand investments in resources for our communities. Every individual action matter – every online share, donation given, email sent to our public representatives, and show of solidarity counts. Included below are links to resources, references and ways for us to take action and be allies.

Our strength is our united communities, dedicated to our efforts to combat anti-racism and our continued commitment to the [UCSF's Anti-Racism Initiative](#). We are grateful to be doing the work together.

In solidarity,

The APASA Steering Committee

#### **Take Action**

- [Foundations for Diversity Equity and Inclusion Training](#) (completed this required UCSF training)
- [Stop AAPI Hate](#) and [Stand Against Hatred](#) (to report a hate incident and view data)

- Support and donate to local and national organizations in this [comprehensive list compiled by New York Magazine](#) (*community restoration, enrichment, policy reform and social justice, legal defense, and LGBT and gender-based organizations*)
- [Bystander Intervention Training to Stop Anti-Asian/American and Xenophobic Harassment](#) from Hollaback! and Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
- [Self-Help for the Elderly](#) (help provide assistance and support to seniors in the Bay Area)
- [Hate is a Virus](#) (how you can join the movement and raise awareness)

### **Mental Health**

- [Asian Mental Health Collective](#) (building a community for Asian mental health support)
- [National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association](#) (promote the mental health and well-being of the AAPI communities)
- [Asian American Psychological Association](#) (advance the mental health and well-being of Asian American communities through research, professional practice, education and policy)