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.¹

Asian American civil rights organizations at the national level,² organizations at the state level,³ 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.

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