



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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TO END HIV, WE MUST END RACISM
[#STOPAAPIHATE](#)

The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV condemns all forms of hate and violence. We stand in solidarity with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and condemn the attacks on our AAPI brothers and sisters across the Country. Acts of hate against AAPI communities have risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. An attack on one community, is an attack on all of US.

The harmful rhetoric of the previous administration and the repeated use of the term “China virus” to refer to COVID-19 have fueled the senseless increase in violence we are seeing across the country. These hurtful words and demonization of a particular community followed the long American history of using diseases to justify anti-Asian xenophobia, one that dates to the 19th and 20th centuries, and has helped to shape perception of AAPIs as “perpetual foreigners.”

Many scholars, historians, and activists have pointed out that racial violence against AAPIs often goes overlooked because of persistent stereotypes about the community. The pervasiveness of the model minority myth is a large contributing factor to the current climate. That false idea, constructed during the Civil Rights era to stymie racial justice movements, suggests that Asian Americans are more successful than other ethnic minorities because of hard work, education, and inherently law-abiding natures. Because the model minority myth suggests upward mobility, it creates a fallacy that Asian Americans don’t experience struggle or racial discrimination and misogyny.

We applaud the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in their decision to immediately identify funding to expand the County’s Anti-Hate program to combat hate against AAPIs. We call on all Angelenos to speak out against hateful and violent attacks on AAPI communities. Encourage those who experience or witness acts of hate toward the AAPIs communities to report an incident to 211 LA. Incidents can also be reported using the www.stopaapihate.org website. The STOP AAPI Hate reporting form is available in 11 languages.

The HIV movement knows too well that hateful language has real stigmatizing consequences. The hatred and violence we are witnessing perpetuated against AAPIs are rooted in the same form of racism, discrimination, and misogyny that continue to hinder our progress in ending HIV. Join us in stopping hate and support the AAPI communities.

In Solidarity,

Los Angeles County Commission on HIV

<https://www.lavshate.org/>
<https://stopaapihate.org/>

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.