

April 2, 2021

Statement Against Anti-Asian Violence

Dear U.C. Santa Barbara Community,

We write to you steeped in horror, rage, sorrow, weariness, and grief at the recent hateful, violent, and deadly actions against the Asian American communities across the country.

Our hearts break for the tragic loss of eight lives, including Daoyou Feng, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Paul Andre Michels, Soon Chung Park, Xiaojie Tan, and Delaina Ashley Yaun. These individuals were taken from their families, friends, and communities, and they will not return home. Our spirits ache as we mourn and grieve with them.

To those who are taking in these experiences personally, vicariously, or otherwise, our hearts go out to you. We care about your well-being and we wish to support you.

The Asian Pacific Islander (API) Task Force at U.C. Santa Barbara, denounces and condemns anti-Asian violence, bigotry, and dehumanization of Asians and Asian Americans across the country and in the world. We deserve to feel safe in our communities and to live free of fear, misogyny, and racism.

Over the past weeks and months, we have witnessed obscene acts of hatred and overt racism that many thought to be relics of the past. Asian Americans have been beaten, pushed into streets, stabbed, spat on, threatened, verbally accosted and harassed, and homes and businesses have been defaced and vandalized. While we are deeply disturbed by these acts, we are not surprised.

This is not new. Asian Americans have been scapegoated, viewed as foreigners and threats throughout history, and patterns of violence have followed. From the blaming of Asian Americans for an outbreak of smallpox in 1875 and the rise of the “Yellow Peril” narrative; to the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882; to the blaming of Asian Americans for a plague outbreak which led to the burning down of Honolulu Chinatown in 1899; to the blaming and incarceration of Asian Americans in San Francisco for bubonic plague in 1900; to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII on suspicion of being enemies; to anti-Asian American sentiment due to the rising Japanese auto industry in the 1970s; to the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982; to the targeting and violence toward South Asian Americans following the 9/11 attacks in 2001; to the blaming of Asian Americans for the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

Anti-Asian racism and violence have been integral to the American national identity. The problem is about individual acts of anti-Asian violence. And the problem is about structural racism, embedded in laws, media representations, the carceral systems of prisons, detention centers and deportation, racialized sexual violence, and the ongoing association of Asians/Asian Americans with disease and contagion. This. Is. Not. New.

Until the ideology and mechanisms of white supremacy are abolished, none of us are safe. At best, we are only waiting until it is our turn to be in the crosshairs of bigotry and violence. We thus condemn all forms of White supremacist violence, economic exploitation, and heteropatriarchy, whether targeting the Asian American, Black, Indigenous, Latinx, queer or other communities.

To the members of the UCSB community, please do not stand by. We recommend the following action items, especially if you or someone you know has experienced a racist or hate incident.

- Report bias and hate incidents to the [UCSB Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor/Dean of Student Life](#)
- Report bias and hate incidents to the national organization [Stop AAPI Hate](#)
- Read stories and report hate incidents to [StandAgainstHatred.org](#)
- Bystander intervention training workshops at [Hollaback](#)
- Get involved with [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
- [Sign the petition, 18 Million Rising](#)
- Take steps to get educated. Here are some starting points.
 - Watch the [PBS documentary Asian Americans](#)
 - Take an Asian American Studies course:
<https://www.asamst.ucsb.edu/undergrad/courses>
 - Review the [Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance's Resource Guide](#)
 - [Anti-Racist Resource Guide](#) by Victoria Alexander

Anti-Asian hate incidents and violence are heinous and will not be tolerated. Those responsible will be held accountable for their actions pursuant to the full extent of appropriate mechanisms and processes.

To the UCSB APIDA community, please seek support for yourself and for others. Be in the company of people you trust and with whom you feel safe. Try to find ways to limit how much harm you take in. Do activities that are therapeutic and facilitate your healing. Tell your story. Organize with others. Report your experiences. The API Task Force will continue to work with the Asian Resource Center and our other campus partners to support our students and our communities. We offer the following suggestions as ways to facilitate our healing.

- Meet with [CAPS Counselors](#) Chye Hong Liew, Katherine Wu, or Sochanvimean Vannavuth
- [Meet with Kristen Minami](#), Asian Resource Center Coordinator and EOP Counselor
- [Meet with Ashkon Molaei](#), Middle Eastern Resource Center Coordinator and EOP Counselor
- [Meet with Shariq Hashmi](#), API Task Force Co-Chair and College of Engineering Academic Advisor
- Get involved with the undergraduate student group, [Pan Asian Network](#) (email: panasiannetwork@gmail.com)
- Get involved with the graduate student group, [Asian Pacific Islander Graduate Student Alliance](#)

- Email to get on the listserv: apigsa.ucsb@gmail.com
- Take an Asian American Studies course:
 - <https://www.asamst.ucsb.edu/undergrad/courses>
- [HAPI: Supporting Healthy Asians/Pacific Islanders](#), support group by CAPS
- [Asian Resource Center \(ARC\) Remote Resources List](#)
- Participate in the Asian Resource Center's (ARC) programs and events
 - Instagram: [instagram.com/ucsb_arc/](https://www.instagram.com/ucsb_arc/)
 - Facebook: [facebook.com/UCSBAsianResourceCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/UCSBAsianResourceCenter/)
- Participate in [MultiCultural Center \(MCC\)](#) programs and events
 - Event calendar: <https://mcc.sa.ucsb.edu/events/spring-2021>
- Report bias and hate incidents to the [UCSB Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor/Dean of Student Life](#)
- Report bias and hate incidents to the national organization [Stop AAPI Hate](#)
- Read stories and report hate incidents to [StandAgainstHatred.org](#)
- Bystander intervention training workshops at [Hollaback](#)
- Get involved with [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
- [Sign the petition, 18 Million Rising](#)
- Get involved with the staff and faculty group, Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (APIA)
 - Email: ucsbapia@gmail.com
 - Shoreline: https://shoreline.ucsb.edu/APIA/club_signup
- Lunch with Maka and Friends, supportive space for APIDA staff: takahara-m@ucsb.edu
- Support group for [APIDA staff](#) through ASAP: asap@hr.ucsb.edu

While solidarity statements are important, they are only symbolic if they are not backed with action. We reaffirm our support for the interests and [demands of the student groups Pan Asian Network \(PAN\)](#) from [2019](#). We also echo the [calls for change](#) from Kapatirang Pilipino (KP), Improving Dreams Equality, Access, and Success (I.D.E.A.S.), and the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition (AAPIC) in 2017. We share in the outrage and insistence on change expressed by the [APIGSA](#) and [Department of Asian American Studies](#). We call on the UCSB administration and broader community to champion these goals.

The API Task Force, formed in 2016, is a coalition of UCSB undergraduates, graduate students, staff, and faculty working to support and advocate for increased equity and justice for the Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American communities at UCSB. Our mission includes mobilizing the campus community to serve the immediate needs of our communities and working for long-term change.

In solidarity,
 Asian Pacific Islander Task Force
 University of California, Santa Barbara