



March 12, 2021: Anti-Asian Racism

Dear CDS Community,

At CDS, we stand in solidarity with members of our Asian American/Asian Pacific Islander community in denouncing recent forms of anti-Asian violence. We recognize that the U.S. has a long history of anti-Asian racism and exclusion that recently includes blaming Chinese people for the Coronavirus and violence against elders in Asian communities. Unfortunately, these stories quickly fade from news cycles and are often ignored by mainstream media altogether. Asians have traditionally been seen as guests (or worse, invaders), our allegiance and patriotism questioned, and our status as “real Americans” perpetually on hold in some circles. Asians are the “eternal other.”

Stereotypes often paint Asians/Asian Americans as quiet and submissive, yet history points to many instances of political and social activism, including recent ties with the Black Lives Matter movement. Still, contributions of Asians/Asian Americans are often overlooked or chalked up to blanket expectations of the “model minority” myth, which both ignore wide disparities in socioeconomic status, health, education, and more. Worse, as you may recall, the myth was designed to undercut Black political movements in the 1960s and to keep minority groups fighting for scraps of justice while White supremacy stayed its course (i.e. “Asians were oppressed too, why can’t you be more like them?”).

Here are a few examples of anti-Asian policies and events:

- Immigration laws designed to keep Asians from entering the United States (e.g., 1882 [Chinese Exclusion Act](#); 1917 [Asiatic Barred Zone Act](#); 1924 [Immigration Act](#)).
- Laws that defined Asians as ineligible for naturalization (e.g., SCOTUS cases: 1922 [Ozawa v. the United States](#) and 1923 [Thind v. the United States](#)).
- The targeting of Asian American communities by violent mobs (e.g., 1871 [Los Angeles Chinese Massacre](#), 1885 [Rock Springs Massacre](#), 1930 [Watsonville Riots](#)).
- [Executive Order 9066](#) (1942) led to the internment of 117,000 Japanese Americans.

- After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, many South Asian Americans and American Sikhs were swept up in the wave of anti-Muslim [racism](#).
- Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, [Stop AAPI Hate](#) and [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#) have collectively reported more than 3,000 cases of anti-Asian incidents.

What can we do?

- Become more familiar with past and recent history of anti-Asian sentiment
 - [Race in America with Daniel Dae Kim & Daniel Wu](#) - *Washington Post* (video, 30 min.)
 - [Anti-Asian Racism Isn't New](#) - *NY Times* (article, 4 min. read)
 - [700 Anti-Asian Hate Incidents Reported in Bay Area During Pandemic](#) - KQED (article + 4-min. audio clip)
 - [The Vibrancy of Chinatown is at Risk. We Must Protect It.](#) - *The Bold Italic*
 - [The Asian Response to Black Lives Matter is Part of a Long, Complicated History](#) – *Time*
- Visit Asian communities - engage in conversation, support Asian-owned local businesses
- Speak out if you hear racist comments or witness anti-Asian violence - [helpful guide showing ways to get involved](#) (with safety in mind)
- Support legislation that combats anti-Asian violence
- Join [Compassion in Oakland](#) (or apply to start an SF branch) to offer support to Asian seniors - *USA Today* [article](#)
- Reach out to Asians in your circles or that you meet and offer support. Just knowing people are aware can make a difference.

We hope that in this resurgence, we can stand in solidarity with Asian/Asian American members of our community and let people know we won't tolerate anti-Asian sentiment. We are stronger together!

Warmly,
Shelly and Anthony