



CTA PAAC Statement on The Rise of Anti-Asian Racism

We, the CTA Pacific Asian American Caucus, are disturbed and appalled at the recent rise in anti-Asian racism against our greater community.

We urge all to realize and acknowledge that racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) is not new. Our greater community has been victims of racism since the moment we and our families arrived. Long have we been branded as the so-called “model minority,” it seems that racism towards our community has been normalized. This is not okay. The model minority myth [hurts our communities](#). It blankets us. It ignores the diversity across our students, educators, membership, and our families.

One year ago, we saw a rise in hate incidents when the pandemic began as Asians were blamed for the cause of COVID-19.

A year later, nothing has changed. In fact, incidents and crimes have spiked substantially in recent weeks, especially the string of unprovoked and violent attacks against elderly Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

These are not isolated incidents nor are they one-offs. Asian Americans have been targeted, physically and verbally attacked, or murdered from early on in our country’s history. Remember [Vincent Chin in 1982](#). Unfortunately, he was not the first nor the last - the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the Japanese internment, the [US occupation and treatment of native Hawaiians](#). Chinese people were the victims of one of the largest mass lynchings in American history, the [Chinese massacre of 1871 in Los Angeles](#). The list goes on.

Just in the past few weeks:

- A Thai American man, **Vicha Ratanapakdee**, was [murdered in San Francisco](#) for simply walking

- A Filipino man, **Noel Quintana**'s face was slashed [ear to ear in a NYC subway](#)
- An 88-year-old woman, **Yik Oi Huang**, in San Francisco [beaten by her own cane](#)
- A 64-year-old grandmother, **Duong**, [robbed of Lunar New Year cash](#) in San Jose
- A Filipino man, **Mauricio Gesmundo, Sr**, in Philadelphia was [beaten and robbed](#)
- An Oakland 70-year-old grandmother was [assaulted and robbed](#) in Oakland's Chinatown neighborhood
- An Asian man was left in critical condition after being [stabbed in the back with a butcher knife](#) in NYC's Chinatown

There is much more that is happening in the AAPI communities, but it seems as if no one cares, or at least no one cares enough to shine a light on it en masse in the media, except for Asian media sources. Little light is shown on the [wrongful death and murder of Navy veteran Angelo Quinto in Antioch](#) who died after police knelt on his neck for nearly 5 minutes back in December 2020. In fact, the community is barely aware of this and coming to realizing this in February. Some of his final words were, "Please don't kill me."

Among the issues that have been "invisibilized" are the rising unemployment rate of Asian Americans, the school-to-prison-to-deportation pipeline of young AAPI men, and the high rate of poverty in Southeast Asian communities, to name just a few.

Coping, struggling, and surviving through this pandemic has been challenging, but addressing these acts is critical. We implore all of you to please consider our Asian American and Pacific Islander students, staff, administration, and their families who may be trying to cope with the current attacks on our AAPI communities.

We must loudly speak up and stand up to these hate incidents and aggressions. Our community should know that we, as educators and a cornerstone of our society, are all in this together and that we will not tolerate any violence, hostility, derogatory, or negative attitudes toward our AAPI students, families, staff, or administration.

As educators, we urge you to look to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and responsibilities we have to our students and community. We are all watching you. We must not only be committed to being anti-racist in our roles as educators, but we must call out racism and hate and stand up to them when we are confronted with them!

Join us in this fight together to raise awareness, to commit to this fight, and to make a clear declaration against anti-Asian sentiments, violence, and racism everywhere!