

March 31, 2021

Time for Action Against Anti-Asian Violence

The recent surge in violence against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is horrifying, but it is not new. Our country has a long history of discriminating against people of Asian descent.

In 1882, President Chester A. Arthur signed the [Chinese Exclusion Act](#), which was one of several laws passed to block people from emigrating from China to the United States—despite the fact that Chinese Americans made invaluable contributions to this country in the same time period. For example, from 1863 to 1869, an estimated 15,000 Chinese workers—who were treated worse and paid less than their white counterparts—helped build the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed [an Executive Order to force over 100,000 Japanese Americans into internment camps](#). Japanese Americans were held in facilities, originally called “concentration camps,” without trial for three years under the guise of safety concerns relating to World War II. In reality, the internment stemmed from widespread discrimination against Japanese Americans, particularly among white farmers, who felt threatened by Japanese Americans’ success in agriculture.

These are just two of the more egregious government-sponsored acts of discrimination against Americans of Asian descent in our nation’s long, racist history.

[The recent 150% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes](#) did not happen in a vacuum. It is the product of centuries of discrimination, which has been spurred on by hate speech from politicians, the media, and others, and exacerbated by the silence of the general public. The most recent attacks on Asian Americans are consistent with our country’s culture of white supremacy and its commitment to elevating whiteness at the expense of all other races.

In this time of grieving and frustration, we want to share these tangible steps and resources to explore with our community:

- Attend a [Bystander Intervention](#) training offered by [Hollaback!](#) in partnership with [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#).
- Check out this tool for [reporting a hate incident](#) (which is available in several languages).
- [Read these six tips for responding to racist attacks](#).
- Learn more and donate to local efforts through [the Movement Hub](#), a platform that brings together 40 Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations across the U.S. that advance racial equity and intersectional justice.
- Watch this [five-part PBS series about Asian American history](#).
- Check out this list of [68 Ways to Donate in Support of Asian Communities](#).
- [Donate to the Atlanta shooting victims' Family Fund](#).
- [Donate to local AAPI organizations' GoFundMe campaigns](#).
- The National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) has [a petition](#) that asks federal elected officials to center the needs of affected communities, tackle systemic racism, and address the needs of survivors.
- The Asian American Advocacy Fund has some [ways to take action](#) for Georgia, including:
 - Stop anti-voting bills in Georgia: [SB 241/HB 531](#).
 - [Stop HB 286](#) which would prevent cities from reallocating funding from police departments and reinvesting in their communities.
- [Sign on](#) to Asian American Advancing Justice-Atlanta’s collective community statement calling for local and state governments to provide crisis intervention resources, including in-language support for mental health, legal, employment, and immigration services.