

Resolution Condemning Anti-Asian American Sentiment in California Exacerbated by COVID-19

WHEREAS, Asian Americans represent approximately 5.6 million citizens in California, the state with the largest proportion of Asian Americans with a total of 17.3 million (of Asian descent) nationwide¹; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans face increased levels of fear and anxiety due to both COVID-19 health risks and racist remarks², including those of former President Donald Trump, who named COVID-19 the “Kung flu” during his 2020 presidential campaign in Tulsa, Oklahoma³; and

WHEREAS, elderly Asian Americans face larger levels of stress from potential physical attacks in various public settings such as robberies, shootings, and assaults, like the attack against an 84 year-old victim Vicha Ratanapakdee in San Francisco in early February⁴; and

WHEREAS, Asian university students are facing harassment through situations not limited to Zoom bombings, Anti-Asian posters outside of dorm rooms, vandalism on university property consisting of racist language, and Anti-Asian comments on social media platforms such as Facebook⁵; and

WHEREAS, a Korean international student was physically and verbally assaulted on a street in New York due to a preconceived notion that all Asians have Covid-19 in early March last year, resulting in a harmful trend of discrimination against Asians in their day-to-day lives⁶; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans face a disproportionate increase in unemployment amidst the pandemic, compared to the non-Hispanic White labor force holding the same educational backgrounds⁷; and

WHEREAS, Asian American Students constitute the largest group of students at UCLA, making up 28% of the total UCLA student population;⁸

WHEREAS, USAC at UCLA strives to build a resilient and empowered community that is committed to solidarity with marginalized communities of color in advocacy and collaboration in the fight for equity and justice; and

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the USAC supports the development of community-led safety efforts piloted by organizations such as the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and affirms that any and all efforts toward protecting Asian American communities should not call for increased policing nor weaponizing anti-Blackness.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the USAC calls on UCLA to advocate on behalf of Asian Americans of all ages, particularly Asian students at UCLA, to promote inclusion, and address physical and verbal attacks against Asian Americans stemming from COVID-19 for all residents and citizens.

¹[https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff06.html#:~:text=5.6%20million,total%20population%20\(57%20percent\).](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff06.html#:~:text=5.6%20million,total%20population%20(57%20percent).)

²<https://ph.ucla.edu/news/press-release/2021/feb/ucla-releases-covid-19-data-asian-and-pacific-islander-groups>

³<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/20/trump-covid-19-kung-flu-racist-language>

⁴www.npr.org/2021/02/12/966940217/anger-and-fear-as-asian-american-seniors-targeted-in-bay-area-attacks

⁵<https://www.adl.org/blog/reports-of-anti-asian-assaults-harassment-and-hate-crimes-rise-as-coronavirus-spreads>

⁶[https://abc7ny.com/wheres-your-\(expletive\)-mask-asian-woman-attacked-in-nyc/6003396/](https://abc7ny.com/wheres-your-(expletive)-mask-asian-woman-attacked-in-nyc/6003396/)

⁷<https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/report-shows-major-effects-of-covid-19-on-asian-american-labor-force>

⁸<https://www.apb.ucla.edu/Portals/90/Documents/Campus%20Stats/UGProfile18-19.pdf>

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC joins the Vietnamese Student Union, the Asian Pacific Coalition (APC), and APC's member organizations in condemning hateful acts of violence against marginalized communities.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, the USAC reaffirms its support for Asian Americans and asks other entities and departments at UCLA to do so as well.