Supporting Our Asian and AAPI Communities

Full statement PDF with hyperlinks, references, and updates here (last updated Wed 3/17, 12PM PST):
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LJU83Anw-XICY0UXByCluyZIKXSVS-XP/view?usp=sharing

To the Caltech community,

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an alarming number of xenophobic and racist attacks against Asians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) across the US. Between March 19, 2020 and February 28, 2021, Stop AAPI Hate reported 3,795 firsthand accounts of racism and discrimination against Asians and AAPIs across the US, with more than 245 occurring in Los Angeles\(^1\). The most common incidents involved physical assault, verbal harassment, workplace discrimination, and refusal of service.

These incidents have escalated within the past month, including (but not limited to) violent attacks in New York City, Oakland, San Francisco, and here in Los Angeles\(^2\). Vulnerable elders have been disproportionately targeted in these attacks, leaving many Asians and AAPIs fearful for their own safety and the safety of their loved ones. In addition to the incidents reported in the news and across social media, Asian and AAPI Caltech students have also experienced this firsthand. Some have even been told to “Go back to China” while walking around Pasadena.

Unfortunately, these incidents and sentiments against Asians and AAPIs are not new. From Japanese internment during WWII, to the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, to attacks on Sikh and other South Asian Americans in the wake of 9/11, to the incidents we are witnessing today, racist sentiments have resulted in the loss of life and liberty for thousands of Asians and AAPIs throughout US history.

Caltech has a large Asian and AAPI population, with 49% of undergraduates and 15% of graduate students identifying as AAPI\(^3\), in addition to many Asian international students (whose population cannot be disaggregated from current enrollment statistics). Asian and AAPI Postdocs, Caltech and JPL staff (21% who are Asian), faculty, and alumni have been similarly affected by racist attacks and remarks. We recognize that these incidents are mentally and emotionally exhausting for these communities.

**We unequivocally condemn all forms of violence and racism against Asians and AAPIs.** We offer support to our Asian and AAPI members of the Caltech community who have been impacted, and encourage them to reach out to the resources listed below. We ask the Caltech community to stand with and support their Asian and AAPI colleagues, and to recognize that racism against any group is an affront to equality everywhere.

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\(^{1}\) Stop AAPI Hate: [Reports & Releases](https://www.stopaapihate.org/reports), Most recent national report from March 16th, 2021.

\(^{2}\) News Articles: [Time](https://www.time.com), [NYT](https://www.nytimes.com) \((1)\) \((2)\), [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com), [CNN](https://www.cnn.com) \((1)\) \((2)\), [NBC](https://www.nbcnews.com) \((1)\) \((2)\), [NPR](https://www.npr.org) \((1)\) \((2)\), [LA Times](https://www.latimes.com)

\(^{3}\) [Caltech Registrar's Office: Enrollment Statistics](https://wwwRegistrarStatistics/caltech.edu)