

## Supporting Our Asian and AAPI Communities

Full statement PDF with hyperlinks, references, and updates here (last updated Thurs 3/18, 10AM PST):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LJU83Anw-XICY0UXByCluyZIKX5VS-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<sup>1</sup>. 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<sup>2</sup>. 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](#)<sup>3</sup>, 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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<sup>1</sup> Stop AAPI Hate: [Reports & Releases. Most recent national report from March 16th, 2021.](#)

<sup>2</sup> News Articles: [Time](#), NYT (1) (2), [Washington Post](#), CNN (1) (2) (3), NBC (1) (2), NPR (1) (2), [LA Times](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Caltech Registrar’s Office: Enrollment Statistics](#)

For those who are looking for support, the following resources and community groups are available at Caltech.

- [Caltech AAPI+](#) - Student-led association for AAPIs. Caltech AAPI+ invites all members of the Caltech community (including students, postdocs, staff, faculty, and JPL affiliates) to fill out this [anonymous form](#). This is a space for individuals to process how the pandemic, alongside violence and racism against Asians, has affected them. Anonymous responses can be [publicly viewed here](#).
- [Center for Inclusion and Diversity](#) (CCID) - Programming, affinity spaces, and community support.
- [Equity and Title IX Office](#) - Report instances of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, sex, gender, and other individual characteristics protected by federal and state law.
- [Campus Sexual Violence Advocate](#) - Téresa Mejia, confidential resource and support person.
- [Student Wellness Services](#) - Counseling services for students.
- [Staff & Faculty Consultation Center](#) - Counseling services for staff & faculty.
- Employee Resource Groups - [Asian Pacific Americans](#) (APACT) at Caltech, and [Asian American Council](#) (AAC) at JPL.

As mentioned above, a [public community survey regarding these events is available here](#), and [anonymous responses can be viewed here](#). We invite all members of the Caltech and JPL communities to respond and read through the community sentiments.

Supported & Signed by,

**Caltech AAPI+ (Asian American Pacific Islander Association)**

Abigail Jiang (Co-President)

Renée Wang (Co-President)

Alison Tominaga (Advisor, CCID Program Coordinator)

**Associated Students of the California Institute of Technology Board of Directors**

**Graduate Student Council Board of Directors**

**Caltech Postdoctoral Association Board of Directors**

**Equity and Title IX Office**

**APACT (Asian Pacific Americans at Caltech) Employment Resource Group**

**Caltech Center for Inclusion and Diversity**

**AAC (Asian American Council), a JPL Employee Resource Group**

**Counseling Services and Occupational Therapy**

Statements from other universities<sup>4</sup> and student organizations<sup>5</sup> were used as reference.

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<sup>4</sup> [MIT](#), [UCLA](#), [UCSF](#), [Virginia Tech](#), [Brown](#), [Harvard \(Dept of East Asian Languages & Civilizations\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [USC Undergrad Govt](#), [Stanford A3C](#), [Princeton AASA](#), [Brown AAPA](#)