



A Call For Unity: Ending Violence In Asian American Communities

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Philanthropic Statement of Support

We have recently witnessed several violent and hateful acts against Asian American people in the Bay Area and [2,808 documented anti-Asian hate incidents](#) across the country. These vicious attacks are only the most recent and most visible examples of how Asian Americans have been targeted throughout our history because of their race. The fact that a number of these attacks were recorded gives us visible evidence of a lack of respect for human safety

and has put the Bay Area in the national spotlight. We support the condemnation of these acts by a number of AAPI leaders in their statement this week ([see link here](#)) as they join forces through cross-cultural organizing and promoting alternatives to further harm and criminalization.

We join those organizations in condemning these horrific acts – especially acts that have targeted elders and women – in the strongest possible terms. People who have committed these crimes must be held accountable and we must all acknowledge the pain and suffering that survivors have experienced. We also condemn the use of the so-called “model minority” myth as a racial wedge to divide communities of color against each other. At a difficult time like this, it is essential that we stand together.



There is a broader role for anyone who cares about our communities. Foundations and our nonprofit partners must work harder to examine the underlying causes and conditions that have made Asian communities a target of racial hatred and which threaten our ability to heal across races and cultures. We must address the fundamental inequities that are built into a system that reinforces institutionalized racism so that we can finally promote understanding, caring, and true community safety. This includes more funding for organizations providing support and services to victims; funding for community-based violence prevention, and addressing a failed education system that has come to be known as the “school to prison pipeline.” Finally, we have to invest in these changes over the long term, not just when a crisis occurs.

Funding for these issues is practically non-existent. Currently, [less than 1%](#) of national foundation grants support Asian American communities and we commit to addressing this funding inequity. We call on our colleagues in philanthropy to provide significant funding for programs that AAPI survivors, leaders, and communities require to address this violence and build racial solidarity. We urge you to join us.

Sincerely,

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East Bay Community Foundation*

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If you are interested in joining the commitment to support Asian Americans impacted by the recent violence experienced in their communities, please contact Sachi Yoshii, Vice President of Strategy & External Relations: (510) 208-0858 or syoshii@eastbaycf.org.



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