

CONDEMNING HATE CRIMES AGAINST
ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, rates of hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), including verbal, physical, and psychological abuse, have increased exponentially. In major U.S. cities, the rate of anti-Asian hate crimes has increased by nearly 150%. Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition that tracks the prevalence of anti-Asian hate crimes, reported over 2,800 incidences of hate within this past year. However, these numbers are anticipated to be much higher due to a large number of hate crimes that go unreported.

Racism and violence against Asians are deeply ingrained in American history. Centuries of discrimination have been exacerbated by racist anti-Asian rhetoric espoused by the previous Administration throughout the coronavirus pandemic. According to a recent statement from President Biden,

"The Federal Government must recognize that it has played a role in furthering these xenophobic sentiments through the actions of political leaders, including references to the COVID-19 pandemic by the geographic location of its origin. Such statements have stoked unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and have contributed to increasing rates of bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against AAPI persons."

Dane County is not unscathed by the ugliness of blatant anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. Last March after the implementation of Governor Evers' Safer at Home order, incidents of hate and bias on UW-Madison's campus rose dramatically and anti-Chinese sentiments were chalked on State Street and campus.

Although largely unreported, incidents of racism, hate, and discrimination against Asian American community members have been occurring throughout Dane County. The increased rates of anti-Asian hate crimes impact community members of all ages, and are often directed at the most defenseless populations, targeting the elderly and youths.

This increase in racism is leaving a traumatic impact on Asian American youth in the county. It is critical to acknowledge and condemn the targeting of hate, particularly for the next generation of Asian Americans, to move forward and create a more equitable Dane County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors condemns hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and stands behind our community members.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors strives to make Dane County a safe and equitable place for all, and works to bring awareness to and mitigate hate and discrimination.