

Cindy Huynh
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Dear SJECCD Community,

The dangerous, racist rhetoric, and references to COVID-19 as the “Wuhan virus”, “Chinese virus”, and “Kung Flu”, has led to a surge in anti-Asian violence across the nation. According to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), Asian Pacific Americans reported over 1,100 incidents of COVID-19 discrimination in the last two weeks of March. Again, these are only reported incidents and many have gone, and will go, unreported.

History is cyclical and anti-Asian violence is nothing new. In 1882, the [Chinese Exclusion Act](#) was passed after Chinese immigrants arrived en masse to labor. American propaganda overwhelmingly described Chinese communities as “dirty”, “strange”, and “unassimilable”. During the period of mass resettlement for Southeast Asian refugees, our nation saw incidents like the [1989 Stockton Schoolyard Shooting](#) and the racially motivated murders of [Jim Ming Hai Loo](#), [Thong Hy Huynh](#), and [Thien Minh Ly](#). Similarly, after 9/11, there was an indefensible increase in [Islamophobia](#) and hate crimes against South Asian Americans. Unfortunately, this is just a small sample of our history.

The Asian Pacific American Association (APAA) denounces any form of anti-Asian violence because dangerous, racist rhetoric harms all of us. We invite you to join us in our call to action.

Ways to help:

1. Participate in mutual aid. Donate to [SJECCD's Relief Fund](#) to support our community students, who are in great need.
2. [Report](#) incidents of anti-Asian violence you've witnessed.
3. [Stop the spread of misinformation](#). Research your sources and be mindful of the language you are using.
4. Check in with your family, friends, and students who are particularly vulnerable during this time.

APAA is committed to the betterment of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities at large. While our call to action centers Asian Pacific Americans today, we will continue to work and stand in solidarity with all communities in need. Social justice is not, and will never be, selective.

In Community,
Dr. Cindy Huynh, on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Association