



March 21, 2021

*Statement of Support and Concern
On Behalf of the Department of Asian American Studies at
UC Santa Barbara*

During this unprecedented pandemic, political leaders in the United States, including the former President of the United States, used racist language in reference to the coronavirus almost immediately, and he and others continued to speak in a dangerous, wholly irresponsible manner. The former President was callous and incendiary to use terms like “Kung flu” and the “Chinese virus,” as these were highly likely to provoke the many white supremacists who saw him as their ally. Over this past year, we have watched in horror as we’ve witnessed the results of that careless, irresponsible behavior. In the midst of the latest attacks and murders, many of us have been forced to advise our own loved ones, especially our elderly relatives, to be wary and cautious of being in public, lest they, too, are attacked without warning.

We are outraged that so many persons of Asian ancestry have suffered verbal and physical assaults during this last year, when the pandemic has given all of us so many other things for concern. We believe that these attacks are part of a sad and infuriating pattern of violence against persons of Asian ancestry that stretches throughout American history—this former President was certainly not the first to use racist, white supremacist language, and since at least 1848, thousands of persons of Asian ancestry have been insulted, attacked, and murdered in this country. The latest incidents underscore the profound legacies of that awful history.

We stand in solidarity with all of the loved ones and aggrieved who’ve been impacted by this lawlessness. We stand in solidarity with Asian and Asian American women impacted by racialized sexualized violence, and with immigrants, international students, working-class communities, and queer communities, as we recognize the diversity of Asian Americans in the United States. We understand that these forms of violence harm all of us—they are traumatizing to witness, over and over again, especially for persons of Asian ancestry, near Atlanta, New York, Los Angeles, and all over this country. With great sorrow, we are aware that such acts of violence will likely continue for the foreseeable future, as white supremacy remains a problem for which all Americans must be accountable.

Most of all, we advise everyone in our local communities to be vigilant against such wanton acts of violence, to hold responsible the individuals and the systems that foster such violence, and to stand with those who've suffered. As we stand in solidarity with our allies against all forms of white supremacy and racism, we are thankful for the many colleagues and friends who have already expressed their solidarity with us.

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We offer here a list of resources for those who have witnessed or experienced hate crimes in and around our campus community. We urge all members to report these incidents.

At UCSB:

Counseling and Psychological Services: <https://caps.sa.ucsb.edu/>; (805) 893 4411 (this number is open 24/7).

UCSB Distressed Students Protocol: <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/responding-to-distressed-students/protocol>; (805) 893 4613.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Margaret Klawunn:
<http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/about/office-of-the-vice-chancellor>; VCSAOffice@sa.ucsb.edu;
(805) 893 3651.

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dr. Belinda Robnett:
<https://diversity.ucsb.edu/>; belindarobnett@ucsb.edu; (805) 893 2554.

To report Anti-Asian incidents, see:

<https://stopaapihate.org/>

<https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>

For bystander training on how to intervene and de-escalate safely, see:

<https://www.ihollaback.org/bystander-resources/>

<https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/events>