



Statement on Anti-Asian Racism, Violence, and Bias

In light of increasing anti-Asian attacks, violence, and [hate crimes](#), the ACP California Southern Region I, California Southern Region II, California Southern Region III, California Northern, North Dakota, and Hawaii Chapters condemn and denounce all forms of racism, violence, and bias against all races and ethnic groups in the strongest possible terms.

We stand in solidarity with all victims of violence and their families as well as any fellow Pan Asian¹ community members facing anti-Asian attacks or discrimination.

These acts have escalated during the COVID-19 pandemic², and have targeted seniors, women, and children in particular.

There has been a long history of discrimination and exclusion against members of Pan Asian community, but these horrific events must not be viewed as separate from the hate and violence against any and all communities. Doing so contributes to the “invisibility” of the Pan Asian community within the broader dialogue and the chance to align in solidarity and allyship with other stakeholder communities.

Moreover, the Pan Asian communities are extremely diverse, and patients within these communities are among some of the most vulnerable and marginalized due to xenophobia as well as language and cultural barriers. We strongly advocate for culturally responsive and linguistically accessible resources, and for all individuals to be treated with dignity, respect, and equity.

Health is about more than those who receive care; it is also about those who provide it. Pan Asian physicians comprise over [17%](#) of the U.S. physician workforce and over [22%](#) of medical students in U.S. medical schools.³ Many Pan Asian members of the health care team encounter microaggressions, xenophobia, and bias in the course of their duties, putting their mental health and safety at risk. We support additional bystander intervention and de-escalation training; we support prioritizing the creation of safe spaces to mitigate these effects; and we encourage open discussion.⁴

The ACP considers hate crimes and discrimination to be public health issues, and has committed to further exploring discrimination and racism in health care, medical education, and society.⁵ In particular, the ACP condemns all forms of anti-Asian sentiment⁶ related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.⁷

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. As we commemorate it, let us reaffirm our commitment to creating a climate of deeper understanding between different cultures and of mutual respect within our workplaces and communities. Also our commitment to building a more just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive space within medicine for patients and all members of the health care team.

Most importantly, let it be a time of healing for all.

Publication Date: May 2021

ACP has a Pan Asian Affinity Group for ACP members that identify as Pan Asian and members that share an affinity to, an allyship towards, or have a vested interest in collaborating and networking with Pan Asian members to create a wide variety of professional, personal, and career development opportunities. More information about the ACP Pan Asian Affinity Group, including how to join, is available [here](#).

Footnotes

1. Pan Asian: all people of Asian birth or descent; of, relating to, representing, or involving all the countries of Asia (including the South Asian subcontinent) as well as Native Hawaiians and non-Hawaiian Pacific Islanders.
2. Respiratory Disease and Racism Have Reared Their Ugly Heads With COVID-19: <http://freshlook.annals.org/2020/03/respiratory-disease-and-racism-covid19.html>
3. AAMC [Diversity in Medicine: Facts and Figures 2019](#)
4. Lee, J. Combating Anti-Asian Sentiment — A Practical Guide for Clinicians. NEJM March 24, 2021. DOI: [10.1056/NEJMp2102656](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2102656)
5. Josh Serchen, Robert Doherty, Omar Atiq, et al. Racism and Health in the United States: A Policy Statement From the American College of Physicians. Ann Intern Med. 2020;173:556-557. [Epub ahead of print 19 June 2020]. doi:[10.7326/M20-4195](https://doi.org/10.7326/M20-4195)
6. Internists Say Harassment Based on Race or Ethnic Origin is Never Okay | ACP Newsroom: <https://www.acponline.org/acp-newsroom/internists-say-harassment-based-on-race-or-ethnic-origin-is-never-okay>
7. ACP Letter of Support for H Res 908: https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/letters/acp_letter_of_support_for_h_res_908_a_resolution_condemning_all_forms_of_anti-asian_sentiment_as_related_to_covid-19_april_2020.pdf

Related statements from other ACP Chapters

Oregon: https://www.acponline.org/system/files/documents/about_acp/chapters/or/acp-hpp20202021-harrassment-statementatlantashootingantiaapi-mar24-2021.pdf

Massachusetts:

Chapter News

Statement on the Atlanta shootings – March 2021

<https://www.acponline.org/about-acp/chapters-regions/united-states/massachusetts-chapter/news-meetings>