

A statement from HAAPI (Healthcare Alliance of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders), a VUMC Employee Resource Group

The last 12 months have been tough for many Americans. We are all continuing to deal with the tremendous challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2020, after George Floyd's killing, Dr. Balser, VUMC president and CEO stated, "The pandemic has not erased the ongoing challenges our country and our city face with injustice and inequality, and in many ways has made those challenges more visible."

Over the last year, hate propaganda perpetuated by politicians, news agencies and online posts have led to others blaming the COVID-19 virus on Asians. As a result, Asian Americans and those of Asian descent have faced increased harassment, discrimination, and violence. We are inspired by leaders in our Asian American and Pacific Islander community and allies who have spoken out about this issue and are demanding change.

Anti-Asian Racism During the COVID-19 Pandemic

3,795

Hate Incidents/Crimes
Against Asians reported
March 2020- February
2021

↑150%

VOA report of increase of
anti-Asian Hate Crimes in
2020

500

Incidents reports since
January 2021 alone

11.1%

Physical Assaults
reported, however they
are on the rise

1 in 4

Asian American Youths
experience racist bullying

Source: [Asian Leaders Alliance](#)

We wish to add our voice to theirs and condemn race-based hate and violence. We extend our deepest sympathies for all those who have been impacted by Anti-Asian racism, including the eight lives lost in the xenophobic violence last week in Atlanta. This tragic event heightened awareness of the ongoing racism and prejudices against our community and others. It is our hope that by speaking out and working together, we can end systemic racism, re-introduce civility, and foster open dialogue to heal and unite.

Over the next few weeks, HAAPI will be hosting several sessions and forums surrounding this topic

Resources & Actions AAPI and Allies can take:

What we can do now:



Raise Awareness. Speak up, condemn hate and violence. Participate in meaningful dialogue.



Report instances of anti-Asian harassment, discrimination or violence at [StopAAPIHate.org](https://www.stopaapihate.org)



Tell our story! HAAPI will be hosting a series of storytelling sessions, beginning on April 22nd. You can participate by volunteering to tell your story. Email haapi@vumc.org for details.



Support, donate, and volunteer with organizations combatting racism against the AAPI community.



Join HAAPI

Resources

1. [API Mid TN](#)
2. [Need to Know by Yoonj Kim](#)
3. [Chinese in America](#) by Iris Chang
4. PBS Documentary [Asian Americans](#)
5. [They Called Us Enemy](#) by George Takei
6. VUMC Counseling Resource

Upcoming Events

1. #StandWithAsians March | March 26, 2021, nationwide
2. HAAPI Voices, a story-telling session | April 22, 2021, 11am to 12:30pm, virtual session.

