

APIDA DISCRIMINATION ON USC CAMPUS



STOP
AAPI
HATE

MISSION

We are a group in the **Together In Empowerment** (TIE) internship program at **USC APASS** and have conducted research on USC **students** about **APIDA racism**. Our campus action plan's goal is to better understand **USC's campus culture** and determine where change is necessary to make USC's campus a **safer** and more **inclusive** place for students from an **APIDA** background. In light of **COVID-19**, we have seen racism towards minorities and the **APIDA** community escalate and we want to properly understand the feelings of USC's **APIDA** family towards this issue

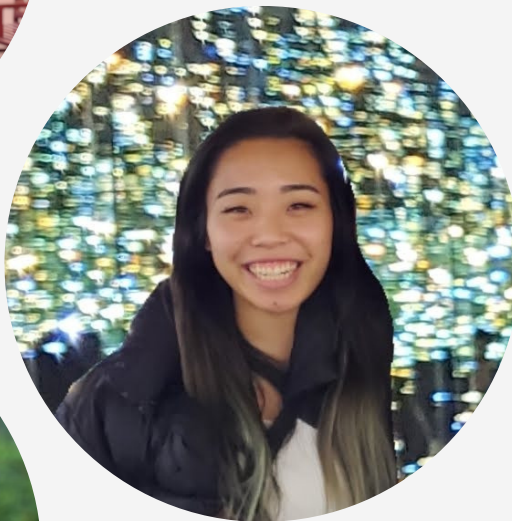
WHO WE ARE



Denis Mac, '23



Karen He, '23



Hana Kitamura, '23



Trisha Willie, '22

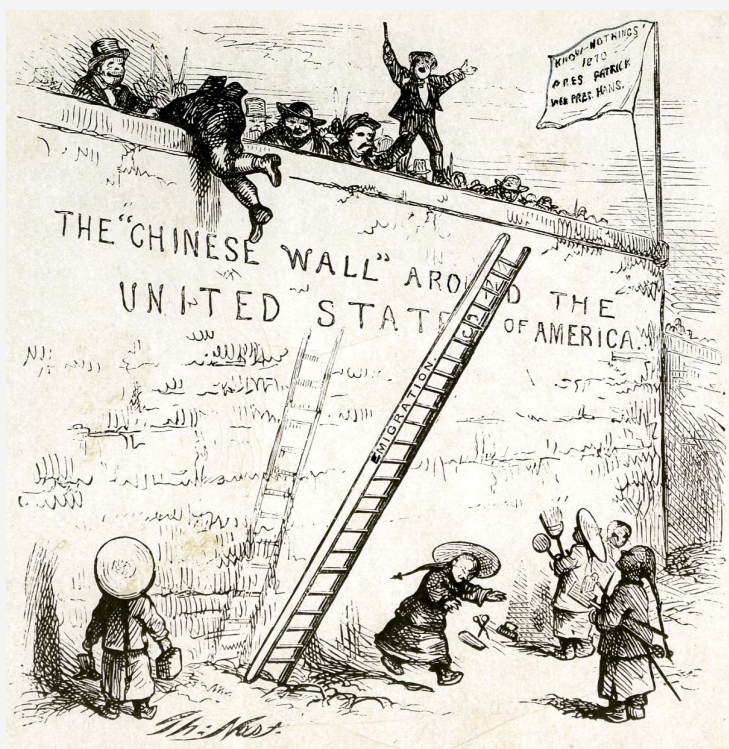


Angelica Boaquina, '24

ASIAN-AMERICAN HISTORY OF HATE

The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

This was the **first legislation** to restrict people based on a specific **nationality** from immigrating to the United States for **10 years**. It sanctioned the **exclusion of Chinese laborers** from immigration as they were the **scapegoat** for America's economic troubles.



Supreme Court: People v. Hall (1854)

The **Supreme Court** ruling declared that anyone who identified as **Chinese** were **restricted** from speaking up to **testify** against **White, American citizens**. It **denounced** the voices of the Chinese population by making their thoughts and beliefs **inferior**.

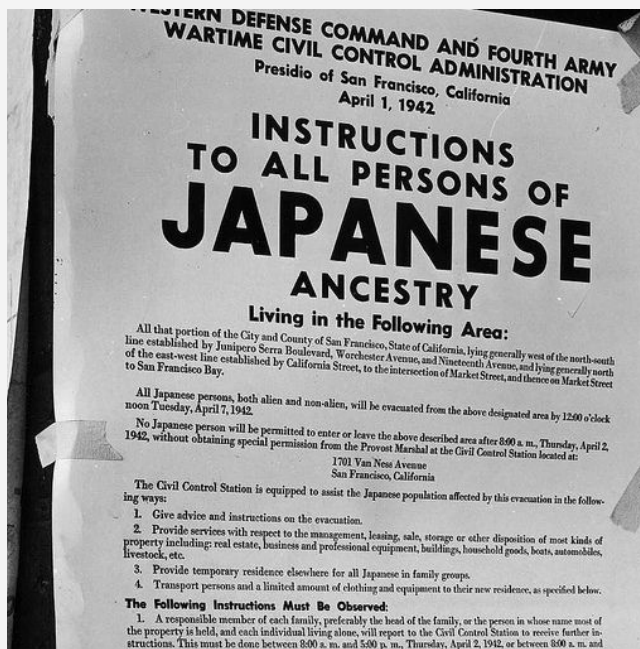
Alien Land Law (1913)

On May 3, 1913, California authorized the Alien Land Law, **preventing Asians' rights** of owning land in America. **16 states supported** these discriminatory laws, which took place until the 1950s. Kansas and New Mexico abolished their provisions in 2002 and 2006, and Florida kept their alien land law restrictions until 2018.



Executive Order 9066 (1942)

During WWII, President Roosevelt authorized Executive Order 9066, where Japanese Americans were **forcibly removed from their homes** and relocated to government-facilitated internment camps. This order **stripped away the rights of all Japanese Americans**, including their freedom, homes, land, businesses, and belongings. Executive Order 9066 was officially repealed by President Ford in 1976.



FURTHER CONTEXT

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION



Cultural appropriation occurs when someone from one culture adopts the aspects of another person's culture. It becomes **racist** when adopters fail to have done proper research about the culture and, in turn, **mock** it instead. This happens frequently in the **APIDA** community predominantly through fashion trends, such as over-sexualizing Asian traditional garments (i.e. Vietnamese áo dài), imitating natural features (i.e. foxy eye trend) and many more. It becomes **commodification** when adopters commercialize others' culture after stripping from its original form to profit from it.

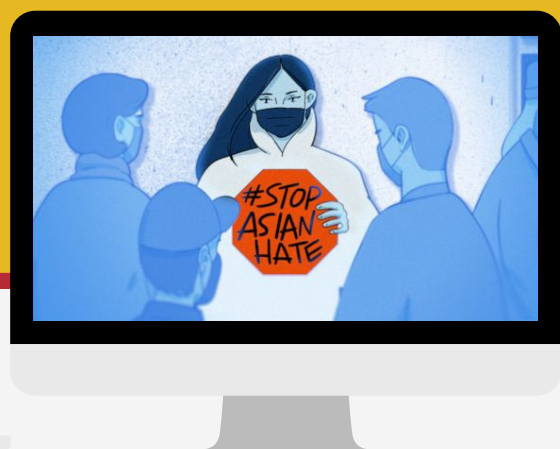
MODEL MINORITY MYTH

The "**model minority**" **myth** suggests that Asian Americans through their labor and diligence worked their way to success in conjunction with the "**American dream.**" Not only does this negate the hard work of other minority groups, it also denies the unique differences among APIDA populations. Asian Americans remain **invisible** in their hard work, but undergo **intense scrutiny** at any deviation from this model. This myth perpetuates the expectation of **Asian passivity** in the presence of bigotry and bias. As many have said before, both the model minority myth and the American dream exist to serve white supremacy.



REPRESENTATION & COVERAGE

Asian Americans are reduced in both number and value as a result of harmful **stereotypes** in insensitive/uninformed productions. APIDA representation is limited according to Hollywood Diversity Reports; only **5%** of film roles in 2019 were Asian. Issues of **mis-** and **underrepresentation** are tied to the lack of news coverage of anti-Asian violence. However, merely increasing diversity numbers on screen is not enough to **dismantle** the systems that contribute to anti-Asian discrimination seen in real life.



USC STUDENTS SPEAK OUT

42 USC Students were surveyed and 93% of respondents identifying with an APIDA Background.



Respondents do **not feel safe** from verbal and physical abuse stemming from racism.

Since COVID-19, **2 out of 5** respondents have experienced



racist abuse/behavior more often.

88%

Of respondents have been **judged** because of being **stereotyped** based on race.

"They [USC students] spat at me for some reason. At the time, I've been wearing my mask because of respiratory problems from even before the pandemic. People saw my 'Asian eyes' and spat derogatory words. 'Go back to your country!' They were spitting at me."

- Nova L.,
Sophomore

"The attention it's got now is almost like it's **a little too late**. We've been saying it's been happening for a year now."

- Quynh N.,
Freshman

Our interviewees all agreed that they think **APIDA racism will be a problem** as USC returns to in-person instruction.



CAMPUS RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT CAN USC DO...

EDUCATION

USC student respondents agree that USC should emphasize education, from faculty to on-campus organizations to the student body. Our surveyed group believes that USC could possibly implement more webinars and mandatory workshops to educate a wider audience as well as the establishment of town halls to hear the voices of APIDA individuals at the university.

"...ignorant professors teach ignorant students."

- Anonymous Student

Celebrate APIDA on-campus culture

- Spaces for APIDA students to **collaborate, share, and network**
- Build **stronger community connections between Asian-Americans and Asian international students** to create a more cohesive APIDA population on-campus

Ensure on-campus diversity where it greatly matters

- Hire more APIDA professors
- Promote **diversity among the individuals in representative student body organizations** (USG and the college-specific student government organizations)
- Provide support services to APIDA students in majors that may not have as much APIDA representation



Encourage APIDA students to vote

- Encourage APIDA students to **vote** in student elections
- Create initiatives to push for more representation among voters to **ensure APIDA voices are being heard**
- Political student organizations can help APIDA students get encouraged and engaged

More suggestions from USC students themselves

- Properly address **Sinophobia** at USC exhibited by USC faculty/representatives and students
- Abolish Greek life
- Promote events held by APASA or APASS to students, cultural assemblies, and other cultural centers that don't identify as part of the APIDA community to develop an educated group of allies

Elect student councils that report directly to authorities/school officials and are approachable for minorities



ACTION PLAN

WHAT CAN YOU DO...

IF YOU WITNESS A HATE CRIME OR INCIDENT...

Don't be a bystander! **Speak up, intervene, and defend the person.** If the situation is a threat to your safety, **remain calm and call 911.** Recording the incident can also help with further investigations and bring justice to the victim. If you or anyone you know has experienced or seen an incident **ALWAYS report!**

REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!

Hate crimes, especially those targeting Asian backgrounds are **severely underreported.**

Culturally, among the older generations, being the victim can be seen as 'embarrassing' or as a sign of 'weakness'.

Reporting can **bring awareness, empower** and **educate others**, and have a higher likelihood of the perpetrator being prosecuted.

You can make a report by contacting your district attorney, or using various online platforms (in multiple languages) such as ...

STOP AAPI HATE

<https://stopaapihate.org>

STAND AGAINST HATRED

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

LAWYERS COMMITTEE: STOP HATE PROJECT

<https://lawyerscommittee.org/project/stop-hate-project/>

Educate Yourself, Educate Others

The best way to support is to gain knowledge. Here are some resources such as books, movies/documentaries, and websites to better understand Asian American history and discrimination.

Yellow Peril!: An Archive Of Anti-Asian Fear

by John Kuo Wei Tchen and Dylan Yeats

The Myth of the Model Minority

by Rosalind S. Chou and Joe R. Feagin

Yellow: Race In America Beyond Black and White

by Frank H. Wu

National Geographic: America's long history of scapegoating its Asian citizens

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/asian-american-racism-covid>

Human Rights Watch: Anti-Asian Racism and Xenophobia Worldwide

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/05/12/covid-19-fueling-anti-asian-racism-and-xenophobia-worldwide>

the Skimm: History of Anti-Asian Racism in the United States

<https://www.theskimm.com/news/history-of-anti-asian-racism-in-the-united-states-3eBqGfaF6V0glo76VYXtUZ>

PBS Documentary: Asian Americans

Unfinished Business (1985)



Volunteer.

Sign Petitions.

Donate.

Spend your free time volunteering at different APIDA organizations! Sign petitions on APIDA policy reform and donate!

There are many non-profits and GoFundMe's that are available to which you can directly contribute and support. Listed below are several organizations based on community enrichment, restoration, LGBTQ, gender, legal defense, policy reform, and social justice. Find one that you resonate with and do your part in helping spread APIDA awareness and decreasing APIDA hate.

Asian Pacific Fund COVID-19 Recovery Fund

Asian Mental Health Collective

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

Asian American Journalists Association

Taiwanese Association of America

Apicha Community Health Center

Khmer Girls in Action

Chinese-American Planning Council

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Red Canary Song

Japanese American Citizens League

South Asian Americans Leading Together

Empowering Pacific Islander Communities

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Sikh American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Asian Prisoner Support Committee

Asian American Feminist Collective

AAPI Women Lead #ImReady Movement

Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum Pacific
Islander Alliance