



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

February 9, 2021

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**Asian American Organizations Across the Bay Area  
Join Forces to Demand Action Against Violence**

We, the undersigned organizations, denounce violence against members of Asian American communities in San Francisco, Oakland, and the greater Bay Area. We stand in solidarity with victims, survivors, and families who have suffered loss and pain.

These violent assaults have made the especially difficult circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic even more painful. From our Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese elders to our youth, our Asian American communities are traumatized, afraid, and outraged during a time when we are also experiencing disproportionate impacts of the pandemic. These include mass unemployment, safety risks to frontline workers, insecure housing, the shuttering of our local small businesses, and a surge in anti-Asian racism.

In the past year, we have seen an escalation of violence and other incidents against Asian American communities. The Stop AAPI Hate reporting center documented 2,808 hate incidents in 2020. Over 700 of these occurred in the Bay Area. And while we should not make any assumptions about the reasons behind these recent incidents – whether racially motivated or not – they have profound impacts on our Asian communities across the country and internationally. Our elderly community members, along with their families, are fearful of being in public alone, simply going for a walk, and living their daily lives. And survivors of interpersonal violence and

their families have historically not received enough culturally-competent and language-accessible support across government systems.

We recognize that violence affects all of us and all of our communities. We must invest in long-term community-centered solutions that create spaces for cross-racial healing that address underlying causes and create ways for all to thrive. We believe that our strength is in unity, not division, and that our histories and our futures are intertwined. That is why we are committed to working with Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Pacific Islander communities for long-term shared vision and solutions to stop the violence in all our communities.

We also recognize that it is up to us to keep our communities accountable and to holistically respond to generational trauma and violence. It is up to us to imagine what real safety could look like for our people, and to build the future we want to see – one that is grounded in accountability, justice, and care for each other.

As the Lunar New Year approaches, we must all come together to protect the safety of our community members who are feeling vulnerable during what should be a celebratory time. The cities of San Francisco and Oakland leadership must immediately increase culturally-relevant and trauma-informed investments that:

1. Ensure victims and survivors of all backgrounds and language abilities receive full supportive services so they can recover and heal.
2. Expand intervention- and prevention-based programs and invest in basic needs and community-based infrastructure that we know will end the cycle of violence and keep all of us safer.
3. Resource cross-community education and healing in Asian American and Black communities that humanizes all of us rather than demonizes or scapegoats any community of color.

As organizations with a long history of protecting and advancing the rights of communities of color, we know that an over-reliance on law enforcement approaches has largely been ineffective and has been disproportionately harmful to Black communities and other communities of color. We believe the solution to violence is to empower our communities with resources, support, and education – this is how we make all of our communities safe.

## Signatories

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment  
Education Fund (AAPI FORCE-EF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice -  
Asian Law Caucus  
APA Family Support Services  
APALA -Alameda County Chapter  
API Equality-Northern California  
Asian Immigrant Women Advocates  
Asian Pacific Islander Council of San  
Francisco (API Council)  
API Equality Northern California  
(APIENC)  
Asian Pacific Environmental Network  
Asian Pacific Fund  
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach  
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning  
Council  
Asian Refugees United  
Asians 4 Black Lives  
AYPAL: Building API Community Power  
Bay Rising  
Cal-Nev Philippine Solidarity Task  
Force  
(UMC)  
Chinatown Community Development  
Center (CCDC)  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Chinese Culture Center of San  
Francisco  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Community Youth Center  
CSU East Bay Ethnic Studies  
Department  
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable  
Economy (EBASE)  
East Bay Asian Local Development  
Corporation (EBALDC)  
Family Bridges  
Filipino Advocates for Justice  
Filipino Community Center  
Interfaith Movement for Human  
Integrity  
Korean American Community  
Foundation of San Francisco  
NAPAWF Bay Area  
New Breath Foundation  
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition  
North East Medical Services (NEMS)  
Oakland Asian Cultural Center  
Oakland Rising  
Pin@y Educational Partnerships  
Pine United Methodist Church-San  
Francisco  
Rose Pak Democratic Club  
Rotary Club of San Francisco  
Chinatown  
San Francisco Committee for Human  
Rights in the Philippines  
San Francisco Rising  
SFSU: Department of Asian American  
Studies  
Silicon Valley Rising  
SOMA Pilipinas: Filipino Cultural  
Heritage District  
South Bay Youth Changemakers  
Southeast Asian Development Center  
(SEADC)  
Stop AAPI Hate

## **Upcoming Oakland and San Francisco Days of Action**

Stand in solidarity with the Asian and Pacific Islander communities by attending the Oakland Day of Action on Saturday, February 13 from 3-5 PM in Oakland Chinatown or the San Francisco Day of Action on Sunday, February 14, from 11 AM - 1 PM at Civic Center Plaza.

To learn more about the Oakland Day of Action, please contact [oakchinatowncoalition@gmail.com](mailto:oakchinatowncoalition@gmail.com).

To learn more about the San Francisco Day of Action, please contact [info@caasf.org](mailto:info@caasf.org).

## **Quotes From the February 9 Virtual Press Event**

### **Asian American Organizations Across the Bay Area Hold Virtual Press Event, Demand Action Against Violent Attacks Against Community Members**

“The impact of this on the AAPI community has been devastating. From our Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai elders to Asian American youth, our community is fearful of being in public alone, simply going for a walk, or living their daily lives. These incidents are stark reminders that urgent action must be taken to protect our AAPI community from hate, discrimination, and violence.”

- **Cynthia Choi**

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), Co-Executive Director

“The recent event has highlighted yet again the needs of Asian communities and the resilience of our communities. Asian Americans are all hurting from the surge of racism and violence. And now our community is uniting over systematic trauma. We are rising to push back on the unjust distribution of resources and focus on healing together.”

“近期的暴力事件再一次突出亚裔社区需求以及坚强的复原力。亚裔被激增的种族歧视和暴力事件所伤害。而现时我们的亚裔社区因为长期受到系统性创伤而凝聚一起，团结一致对抗社区资源分配不公平的制度。”

- **Jing Jing He**

Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), Oakland Lead Organizer

“It’s been such a difficult year. People are desperate to survive. But we’re all also desperate to connect to one another. It’s difficult to shove a senior citizen to the ground if you see yourself in them, if you have a relationship with them. It’s difficult to racially profile someone if you’re not afraid of them, and can see that person as an individual. But we need to invest in community safety infrastructure and people who can bring those different communities into relationship.”

- **Ener Chiu**

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC), Associate Director of Real Estate Development

“While there are no easy solutions, we know our power is rooted in our communities, the relationships we build, and the power we collectively grow together. And that cannot happen without investment in resources for healing, justice, and accountability; proactive relationship building in community efforts grounded in intervention and prevention; and resources for cross-cultural education and relationship building, which is not served with a greater police presence.”

- **Stanley Pun**

AYPAL: Building API Community Power, Co-Director

“It is up to us to keep our communities accountable. We must work together across cities, do the work to engage in the tensions, condemn anti-Asian racism with folks in our communities without being anti-Black, and fight for the resources we all need. The choice is ours. Let’s imagine what real safety could look like for our people, and build the future we want to see – one that is grounded in accountability, justice, and love for each other.”

- **Lai Wa Wu**

Chinese Progressive Association (CPA), Policy and Alliance Director