

## **Central American Studies stands in solidarity with Asian American communities**

Central American Studies at CSUN stands in solidarity with Asian Americans and Asian-descent people around the world during this global pandemic and condemns the racialized attacks and hate crimes targeting Asian Americans and Asian-descent people globally. Racialized assaults and hate violence against Asian Americans in the United States alone has been averaging 100 attacks per day, according to California Congressman woman Judy Chu, following the president of the United States referring to Covid-19 as "the Chinese flu," "Kung flu," and "foreign virus." Prior to the pandemic, our communities with large immigrant and refugee populations were already impacted disproportionately from lack of adequate health care, job losses, and personal hardships. The Covid-19 pandemic sheds light to another unfortunate and painful reality that racism against people of color and the tenuousness and conditionality of our "belonging" remain persistent in 2020.

Asian American Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), "a coalition of more than forty community-based organizations that serve and represent the 1.5 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the greater Los Angeles area, with a particular focus on low-income, immigrant, refugee and other vulnerable populations" has launched **\*STOP AAPI HATE\***, a reporting center, which documents and reports hate crimes and attacks against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). In just the first four weeks of its launch (since March 19, 2020), **\*STOP AAPI HATE\*** received 1497 reports of such incidents. Reports of physical attacks, verbal assaults, harassment, and humiliation came from 45 states across the country and in Washington DC. 58% of the incidents were cited in California and New York; AAPI women were two to three times more likely than AAPI men to be harassed, and 9% of attacks were against elders over the age of 60. 10% of reports were in the workplace (Civil Rights violations).

The Asian American Policy and Planning Council is urging people who have experienced hate or have witnessed any incidents as a result of COVID-19 to continue reporting to [www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate](http://www.a3pcon.org/stopaapihate). The incident report form is now available in twelve languages (including English, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and Khmer, Hmong, Hindi, Punjabi, Thai and Tagalog).

Our Asian American & Pacific Islander brothers and sisters, particularly the Japanese American community, have been among the first and most vocal communities against the incarceration and detainment of Central American migrants and the separation of our families. They have stood in unity with us against the cruel injustice of the detainment and family separation policy.

Central American Studies recognizes our identities and social realities across the world, we also honor and celebrate our Asian heritages, alongside our Indigenous, African, European and Ladino/Latino communities. As Central Americans, we also understand when vulnerable populations within our communities (children, youth, elders, limited-English speakers, undocumented, etc.) are being targeted and impacted by racialized hatred, lack of access to healthcare and economic equality. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has identified that Central Americans and Latinos overall, as well as African Americans, are at greater risk of Covid-19 infection, health complications, and death due to our residency in densely populated

communities, multigenerational households, high incarceration rates, underlying health conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease, strokes, addiction, etc.), lack of sick leave and health benefits, inadequate access medical care, and the overrepresentation as critical workers.

We in Central American Studies express our alarm and dismay at the numbers and volume of racialized hate incidents against our AAPI sisters and brothers and the grave inequities that are causing our Latino and African American sisters and brothers to get sick and die at disproportionate rates here in LA country, the state of California and the United States as a whole. We are committed fight Covid-19, racialized hate violence, institutionalized racism, lack of access to adequate health care, economic disparity, and the structural inequalities that threaten our interconnected existence.