



Joint Message from the LGHN/I-NAPA/NFBPA Solidarity with Asian Communities

Attacks against the Asian Community are on the rise. LGHN, I-NAPA and NFBPA stand together to push back on the rhetoric that is impacting the Asian community, as well as the Brown, Black, Indigenous and LGBTQ communities.

The current attacks on the Asian community are yet another dishonorable element in our current environment. The history of xenophobia against Asians and the racial rhetoric to describe COVID-19 are contributing to this surge of racially motivated assaults.

Asians of every ethnic origin have played a critical role in building the economy, government, society, and culture of the United States, and are among the fastest growing racial and ethnic group in the U.S. Throughout American history, Asians have faced discrimination and violence due to their race and ethnicity, and anti-Asian acts and violence continue to cause physical and mental trauma.

As partners in professional local government, we can support the Asian-American community in a number of ways. We must first educate ourselves on the history of violence against the Asian community to increase cultural understanding. We can use our leadership positions to recognize the violence and racial trauma that is happening around us and provide the space needed for difficult conversations in our organizations and in our communities. Through our local government partnerships and with support from affinity groups in our communities, we can be guided and help lead these discussions.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are important and difficult conversations to initiate and to have. We must all do our part. We call upon everyone to raise awareness of anti-Asian racism, as well as racism in the BIPOC communities in general, and reaffirm our commitment to addressing systemic racism and *inspiring inclusion* as all of our ethical and moral obligations.

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