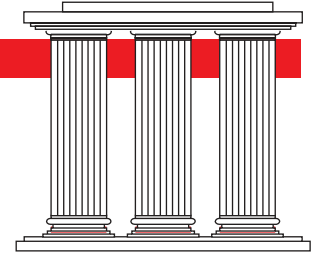


# Position Statement

TRAINERS OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY



## Addressing Anti-AAPI Racism and Xenophobia

A Joint Statement from TSP and APA Division 16

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our world and deepen long-standing structural inequities, we stand in solidarity and grieve with our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) colleagues, graduate students, and P-12 students and families who have faced a rise in racist rhetoric, actions, and hate crimes.

According to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), a national center that collects reports of coronavirus discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, over 2,808 firsthand accounts of anti-Asian hate from 47 states and the District of Columbia were reported between March 19, 2020 (when Stop AAPI Hate began collecting reports) and December 31, 2020. During the same time, Stop AAPI Hate received 126 accounts of anti-Asian hate involving Asian Americans over 60 years old (7.3% of total incidents). More recently, a series of violent attacks in California in early 2021, including several attacks targeting elderly AAPI individuals, have brought increased awareness of, and calls to address, anti-Asian racism during the pandemic. Stop AAPI Hate co-founders issued the following statement in a February 9, 2021 [press release](#), “We are outraged by the disturbing incidents we’ve seen this past week where Asian American elders have been attacked in the San Francisco Bay Area. These violent assaults have a devastating impact on our community as they are part of an alarming rise in anti-Asian American hate during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Data also support that younger individuals within AAPI communities are being targeted and impacted both directly and indirectly. According to a [report](#) released in 2020 by the Stop AAPI Hate Youth Campaign, a high school internship program at Stop AAPI Hate, one-quarter of Asian American high school students reported being targets of racism over the past year. The discrimination they reported most frequently included verbal harassment, shunning, and cyberbullying. Furthermore, nearly 77% expressed anger over the epidemic of hate against Asians. This report includes key considerations and recommendations for secondary schools in combating racism and supporting AAPI students.

In response to this rise in hate crimes and harassment, President Biden signed an [executive order](#) on January 26, 2021 directing federal agencies to condemn and combat anti-AAPI racism. In addressing the role that the federal government has played in the recent resurgence of xenophobia and anti-AAPI racism, President Biden stated, “The Federal Government must recognize that it has played a role in furthering these xenophobic sentiments through the actions of political leaders, including references to the COVID-19 pandemic by the geographic location of its origin. Such statements have stoked unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and have contributed to increasing rates of bullying, harassment,

and hate crimes against AAPI persons.” In the executive order, President Biden further pointed out the irony that roughly two million AAPI individuals are serving their country as front-line workers, first responders and in other key roles to mitigate COVID-19 while they are experiencing unprecedented increased rates of racist attacks and hate. These actions are not only unjust in the strongest terms, but they also defy the best practices and guidelines of public health officials and have caused significant harm to AAPI families and communities that must be addressed.

In light of the recent calls for action focused on racial justice within school psychology, we call, now, upon faculty members, school psychologists and educators to commit by taking demonstrable actions to support the AAPI community. As acknowledged in the *School Psychology Unified Antiracism Statement and Call to Action* (García-Vázquez et al., 2020), efforts focused on other minoritized communities should be considered in tandem with our ongoing and critical work to dismantle anti-Black racism. Instead of working in isolation, we call on non-Asian allies and the AAPI community to work together [in solidarity](#) to fight against white supremacy for real change. For example, local community organizations in the Bay Area have recently [joined forces](#) to demand action against violence and investment in community-centered solutions that promote cross-cultural healing. Their example conveys a powerful message of a collective working together to dismantle oppressive systems that benefit from xenophobia and racism targeting AAPI, Black and other minoritized communities.

### **Some Ways You Can Act:**

- Check in with your colleagues, graduate students, and family and friends in the AAPI community
- Consider watching and discussing the 23-minute Combating AAPI Racism in Age of Covid-19 [educational video](#) in one or more of your graduate courses
- Raise awareness about what is happening and share resources with school and university partners to support AAPI youth and families (see below)
- Read the AAPI (2020) report which contains specific recommendations that school psychologists can implement and support in P-12 schools including: (1) advocating for ethnic studies training in curriculum, such as including positive representations of US cultural groups, the history of racism, slavery and forms of discrimination and hate that continue to this day; (2) participating and delivering training in anti-bullying which incorporates social-emotional learning; (3) implementing restorative justice practices that build common understanding and inclusivity rather than relying on punitive exclusionary discipline; (4) offering secure, accessible and anonymous harassment reporting sites; and (5) serving as an ally alongside AAPI-led student affinity groups focused on student safety and anti-racism work
- Support local and/or national advocacy organizations working to ensure the safety and well-being of the AAPI community
- If you witness behavior that is racist or discriminatory, immediately report the incident following your university and/or school's procedure and advocate for anti-racism training in your school and higher education settings.

## **Resources for Faculty Members and School Psychologists:**

The White House Briefing Room - [Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States](#)

American Psychological Association statements to [destigmatize the virus](#) and [how to combat bias](#)

National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) tips for how [educators can counter coronavirus stigma and racism](#)

Learning for Justice - [Speaking Up Against Racism Around the New Coronavirus](#)

[Self-Care Tips for Asian Americans Dealing with Racism amid Coronavirus](#)

Pew Research Center: [Many Black and Asian Americans Say They Have Experienced Discrimination Amid the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

[Asian Americans Advocating for Justice guide](#) to document and address anti-Asian racism

[Stop AAPI Hate](#)

[Harvard University's AAPI COVID-19 Project](#)

Racial Equity Tools created a resource page for coping with and advocacy for anti-Asian racism: [COVID-19-Racial Equity and Social Justice Resources](#)

[Combating AAPI Hate in Age of COVID-19](#) An Educational Curriculum for Our Students as Hate Crimes Increase During COVID-19

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