

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ASIAN COMMUNITY PARENTS CONCERNED ABOUT BULLYING AS CHILDREN RETURN TO IN-PERSON SCHOOL

San Gabriel, CA – Asian Youth Center (AYC) and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Advancing Justice – LA) are collaborating on a Stop Hate Community Survey of Asian and Asian Americans (ages 18 and over) living in the San Gabriel Valley.

With support from US Bank, HealthNet, and Los Angeles County's LA vs. Hate program, our Stop Hate Community Survey asked about experiences of anti-Asian hate and discrimination, as well as access to resources and community needs. There were additional questions for parents of children in K-12 schools asking about concerns related to their children returning to school. As of this writing, over 300 respondents completed the survey, 61 of whom completed the subsection of questions for parents. As October is National Bullying Prevention Month, we are releasing a research brief to summarize parent response data (preliminary report attached). AYC and Advancing Justice – LA will release more data and the full report from the full community survey later in the month.

About half of parent respondents indicated they have concerns about their children returning to school regarding anti-Asian hate and bullying. For example, a respondent was concerned because their child's school did not provide adequate support to address racial bullying. Another respondent was concerned that students who were separated from friends during the pandemic would blame it on their child or other Asian American students.

About 3 out of 4 parent respondents felt that more training for teachers and staff and clearer protocols on how schools address violence and bullying would help them and their children feel safer returning to school.

"The question for us at AYC," said Michelle Freridge, AYC Executive Director, "Is how can we help students, parents, and schools to prevent Anti-Asian and other types of bullying before it rises to the level of hate incidents?"

AYC is addressing Anti-Asian Hate incidents in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County through community education, engagement, and mobilization activities to empower residents to prevent, address, and recover from Anti-Asian Hate incidents. Some recent examples include:

- Through our Summer of Justice: Pass the Mic internship, high school students in Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley worked on social justice, advocacy, and cross-cultural understanding, culminating on youth producing a series of podcasts on topics including anti-Asian hate, Black Lives Matter, immigration, mental health, and allyship.
- In partnership with LA vs. Hate, AYC will continue to create and support local initiatives

working to stop hate in our communities such as LA vs Hate's [Stronger Together mural project](#) by local artist MariNaomi. Through community events, public art, and social media outreach, we will continue working with other local partners to engage the community and amplify the message that any kind of hate is unacceptable.

- Our online virtual summer program for K-8 students incorporated classes from the [Asian American Education Project](#) curriculum.
- Hiring and training Asian American youth to serve as phonebankers and interviewers to collect community perspectives on Anti-Asian hate for this survey project.

Advancing Justice – LA prioritizes programs that address anti-Asian discrimination and hate in the following ways:

- Reaching the most vulnerable immigrant communities through our Asian Language Help lines and targeted community outreach. We provide free victims and legal assistance in Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese, and English.
- Public communications and awareness campaigns which include thought pieces and national/local PSAs through ethnic and mainstream media partners, allied organizations, and social media outlets. This includes advertising in multiple Asian languages to raise awareness and counter-messaging against harmful rhetoric.
- Amplifying AAPI voices by speaking out on behalf of the community in public forums, discussions, and briefings with national, state, county, and city officials, legislators, nonprofit leaders and corporations.
- Bystander Intervention Trainings: Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles has partnered with AYC and a coalition of community-based organizations to deliver Bystander Intervention Trainings for residents throughout Southern California. Currently, trainings are offered for adults in English and can be accessed [here](#). AYC just completed translating the curriculum into Chinese, so trainings will be available in Chinese soon. We are also planning to adapt the curriculum into a teaching training program and a student-centered program.

AYC and Advancing Justice – LA will continue to use its program contacts, local media, and social media network @AYC100 and @advancingjustice_la to distribute information about how to report hate incidents and crimes and to share resources for those impacted.

Those who have been victims of hate should consider reporting with LA County by calling 211 or using LA County's LA vs. Hate [online form](#). Hate incidents can also be reported to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian American discrimination.

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About the Asian Youth Center

Asian Youth Center (AYC) is a community-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to empower low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth, of all communities, to

overcome barriers to success through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent education, employment, and social services.

About Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Advancing Justice – LA) is the nation's largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Founded in 1983 as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Advancing Justice – LA serves more than 15,000 individuals and organizations every year. Through direct services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building, Advancing Justice – LA focuses on the most vulnerable members of Asian American and NHPH communities while also building a strong voice for civil rights and social justice.