



Asian American Coalition for Education

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April 6, 2021

**Subject: AACE Urges the U.S. Department of Justice to Take A Non-partisan, Holistic Approach to Effectively Address the Root Causes behind Rising Violence, Hate Crimes and Systemic Racism against the Asian-American Community.**

Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Honorable Attorney General Garland:

On behalf of the Asian American Coalition for Education (AACE), an alliance of over 300 Asian-American organizations with a mission to advance the cause of equal education rights, I am writing to request the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) take anon-partisan, holistic approaches to effectively address the rising violence, hate crimes and systemic racism against the Asian-American community.

First, AACE welcomes partial progress that is being made by the White House in combating hate crimes, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as they were outlined in [Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States](#) signed by President Biden on January 26, 2021, and [FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Additional Actions to Respond to Anti-Asian Violence, Xenophobia and Bias](#), dated March 30, 2021. This corresponds to AACE's Policy Statement of March 18, 2021 (attached),

“AACE urges politicians to dissociate the pandemic with any ethnic groups (such as use of term “Chinese Virus”) because Asian Americans did not

cause the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, Asian Americans have been working very hard on the front line saving lives, developing cures and helping others. In the Chinese American community alone, since March 2020, [more than 690 Chinese-American grassroots organizations have raised over \\$18 million](#) and delivered millions of personal protection equipment (PPE) and meals to various hospitals, nursing homes, police departments and other agencies.”

However, after comparing these two aforementioned White House initiatives to data and facts regarding recent violent attacks on Asian Americans, we have developed grave concerns on the Federal Administration’s approach to meaningfully combat anti-Asian racism. Specifically, we are alarmed that improper partisan influence may translate into the U.S. Government’s failure to take a holistic approach to properly define and effectively address many major root causes of increasing violence, hate crimes and systemic racism against Asian Americans.

Notably, the majority of violent attacks on Asian Americans were reported in states that either defunded the police or released many violent criminals irresponsibly during COVID-19 pandemic, such as New York and California, than in states that voted for President Trump such as Texas and Florida. [The recent suspect in attack on Asian American woman in NYC is a murderer](#) who was irresponsibly released to a four-star hotel at taxpayers’ expense. While invoking “Chinese Virus” and “White Supremacy” could be blamed for some hate crimes against Asian Americans, a hyperfocus on these two issues would deflect the public from paying much-needed attention to other major problems that harm Asian Americans in a rising trend.

As a result, AACE urges DOJ to adopt the following non-partisan, holistic measures to expand your efforts to provide equal protection of the laws for all Asian Americans:

- 1. DOJ and all pertinent local agencies should conduct thorough, evidence-based and transparent investigations to identify true motives and root causes behind all vicious attacks against Asian Americans.** These may include:
  - a. The improper use of the term “Chinese Virus” and “White Supremacy” as the White House has alleged;
  - b. Rising violence as a result of defunding police and irresponsible releases of violent criminals from prisons.
  - c. Violent robberies instigated by violence-inciting popular culture, notably YG’s rap, “meet the flockers” which glorifies robbing Chinese Americans.

- d. Hate crimes resulting from toxic identity politics played by the Radical Left, manifested in practices such as recklessly labeling Asian Americans as “overrepresented” and even “previldged” racial group.
  - e. Any other major causes.
2. **DOJ demands state and local governments reverse their failing polices of defunding police and releasing violent criminals irresponsibly, especially in the localities where these policies have harmed Asian Americans.** Law & Order is essential to protect Asian Americans and all Americans!
  3. **DOJ implements zero-tolerance on hate speeches, pro-violence raps, and foul games that target Asian Americans or any other Americans. Specifically, DOJ should ban YG’s hate-filled rap “Meet the Flockers,” that glorifies robberies of Chinese Americans.** Unfortunately, there are too many violence-inciting contents in our pop culture that embolden criminal behaviors. In December 2016, [over 114,000 Asian Americans signed the White House Petition to request to ban YG’s rap, “meet the flockers.”](#) To our dissappointment, the Obama Administration refused to ban such an outrageous rap specifically targeting Chinese Americans. Today, we formally request the Biden Administration prohibit this hate-filled rap because it has creating more severe damages to the Asian-American community than a racial slur or a cartoon with racial stereotypes could.
  4. **DOJ and the White House call upon politicians and the media to stop labeling Asian Americans as “over-represented” or “privileged.”** Asian Americans have been historically discriminated against in American society. Nevertheless, many of us have achieved our American dream mainly through hardwork, as well as an emphasis on education and family valuces, rather than political favorism or privilege. It is baseless and reckless to stereotype Asian Americans as “over-represented” or “privileged.” This will only exacerbate racial animosity against Asian Americans.
  5. **DOJ and the White House call upon educational institutions to abstain from perpetuating racial tensions and to treat everyone equally as Americans.** To teach love and understanding as antidote to hate and intolerance, we also must look to solve serious social issues including poverty, drug addictions, broken families, inadequate parenting and community distress which have been well-dcoumented as contributing factors to violent crimes.
  6. **DOJ takes concrete action to eliminate systemic racism against Asian-American chidren in admissions to selective colleges and high schools nationwide.** Today, Asian-American chidren suffer from systemic racism in college admissions, committed by Harvard and many other selective colleges

nationwide. This is a blatant violation of the equal protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. In addition, educational authorities in New York City, Boston, San Francisco and Fairfax County (Virginia) have launched unlawful racist assaults on hardworking Asian-American students by eliminating objective admission systems in their selective high schools. All these examples demonstrate a nationwide anti-Asian campaign as these government officials have argued “there are too many Asians” in these selective high schools. **If DOJ is sincere in its intentions to implement President Biden’s Executive Order “to prevent discrimination, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes against AAPI individuals,” it should resume the federal lawsuit against Yale University, restate DOJ’s support of the Students for Fair Admissions’ lawsuit against Harvard University and file new lawsuits against government agencies/school boards in New York City, Boston, San Francisco and Fairfax County (Virginia) which launched racist assaults on hardworking Asian American students.**

During his presidential campaign, President Biden promised that he would be a President for ALL Americans. We wholeheartedly hope DOJ will take a non-partisan, holistic approach, adopt our suggestions above, in order to effectively address the rising violence, hate crimes and systemic racism against the Asian-American community!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Yukong Zhao

President

Asian American Coalition for Education

<http://asianamericanforeducation.org/en/home/>

Attachment: AACE Policy Statement on Anti-Asian Crime on March 18, 2021.