



SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE CONDEMNS RACIST ATTACKS AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

March 18, 2021 — The Board of Directors of San Francisco Pride join all good people everywhere in denouncing violence and discrimination against Asian Americans. We mourn the victims of the racist attacks in Atlanta, and we condemn the ongoing series of violent acts against our neighbors — largely seniors — here in the Bay Area.

Stop AAPI Hate has [documented](#) nearly 4,000 examples of verbal harassment and physical assault in the last year, with Asian American women disproportionately affected. As allies, it is our responsibility to recognize this reality while pushing back strongly against any attempts to deny or minimize it — especially from elected officials, law enforcement, and other people in power. It is not merely enough to make a rhetorical stand against racism, either. We must back up our stance through action. At the very least, we encourage everyone to reach out to their Asian American and Pacific Islander friends and neighbors, attend a rally in support of AAPI lives, or make a [contribution](#) to a nonprofit that works in AAPI communities. In San Francisco, we applaud the valiant work of [APIENC](#), a onetime SF Pride organizational Community Grand Marshal.

This recent spate of violence did not come out of nowhere, and certain media narratives can pit one community against another — all too often people of color — apportioning blame to a small group while absolving the

rest of any responsibility or need for soul-searching. As Amy Sueyoshi, Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University and a former SF Pride board member, has said, Asian Americans have experienced hatred and violence in this country since the moment they were brought ashore.

California, for all its vaunted progressivism, has long been a site of anti-Asian animus in this nation, the state where Gold Rush-era demagoguery led to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. As leaders of the Bay Area's LGBTQ+ communities, we are obliged to recognize that and pledge our solidarity to our Asian American sisters, brothers, and siblings. We stand with you, now and always.