

Regarding the Increase in Anti-Asian Incidents

Incidents targeting those of Asian heritage have been increasing. The U.S. federal government, State of California, and Southern California local municipalities have released statements condemning Anti-Asian activities.

【Initiatives in Cooperation with Regional Communities】

The consulate has shared its concerns with law enforcement and elected officials regarding the rise in incidents targeting those of Asian heritage, including Japanese nationals residing in the U.S. and Japanese Americans. In addition to requesting sensitive handling of the increase in these incidents in order to combat them, the consulate has requested clear statements be issued regarding anti-Asian activities. Below are several statements issued by officials the consulate consulted with on this matter and resolutions and statements by regional governments.

1. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

In a Letter to Consul General Akira Muto (March 2021)

"I am writing to express my deep disturbance at the rise in hate crimes directed at our Asian American and Pacific Islander neighbors. Los Angeles has zero tolerance for xenophobia or racism. We will stand with our AAPI communities and protect them from these senseless attacks. Anyone who would perpetrate violence against our fellow Angelenos will be held accountable for their actions."

2. Torrance City Council Resolution (July 2020)

Denounces xenophobia, racism, and anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander sentiment due to the fears of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Joins local districts, cities, and states in affirming its commitment to the safety and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

Affirms its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment for all residents, students, and employees, of any race, ethnicity, and national origin

3 Los Angeles City Council Motion (May 2021)

Recently there have been reports of an increased number of hate crimes targeting Asian Americans. These crimes should be investigated and the perpetrators prosecuted. Efforts should be made to ensure that communities with large Asian populations and cultural sites are protected.

The Police Department (LAPD), with the assistance of the City Attorney, is directed to report on recent reports of increased hate crimes targeting Asian Americans in the City and on the LAPD's response, as well on potential resources that could be used to reduce instances of hate crimes, to prosecute those responsible for these crimes.

(In April, the Los Angeles City Council condemned violence and hate speech against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and passed a motion to begin a public messaging campaign on the issue.)

**4 Los Angeles City Councilmember Kevin de Leon
(representing Little Tokyo & Chair of the Committee on Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity) (March 2021)**

In Remarks at a meeting of the Committee on Immigrant Affairs, Civil Rights, and Equity

"I want to be clear in repeating what I said one month ago because nothing has changed: these heinous attacks have no place in society...I refuse to accept that anyone who lives in or visits Los Angeles will be made to feel that their ethnic identity makes them a target for hate crimes."

【Importance of Reporting】

In the event of a hate-related incident, it should be immediately reported to 911 or to the appropriate law enforcement authority. The consulate will work with the jurisdiction authorities and as needed, consult with community members its concern regarding the incident. As it is necessary to minimize the harm incurred and to prevent a reoccurrence, we ask that the incident be reported to the consulate office also.

Especially in the event the law enforcement agency is not cooperative, it will be possible for the consulate to consult with Los Angeles City Councilmember de Leon, to request assistance in notifying the Los Angeles Police Department.

If injuries or damages result from the incident and it is not reported, this will further the harms caused and will not resolve the problem. This further highlights the importance that all such incidents be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. In addition to law enforcement, in Los Angeles County there are additional entities that are registering reports of hate-related incidents, and reporting can be made using the sites below.

- Los Angeles County 211 LA vs HATE

(online reporting site)

<https://www.211la.org/form/anti-hate>

Non-profit organization resources

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
(legal support services for victims of discrimination and related incidents)
<https://www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/direct-services/helplines>
- STOP AAPI Hate
(online hate incident reporting system (Japanese language available))
<https://stopaapihate.org/actnow/>
- Nikkei Helpline (Japanese language assistance)
Free Japanese language hotline providing assistance on a range of issues including hate incidents, as well as marriage, divorce, family life, senior needs, parenting, and other issues. When needed, Nikkei Helpline collaborates with the Little Tokyo Service Center in offering assistance.
Phone: 213-473-1633 OR 800-645-5341
Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm (closed weekends and holidays)
- Little Tokyo Service Center (LTSC) (Japanese language assistance available)
Provides information on government agencies for hate crime reporting purposes in addition to support for reporting and mental health assistance for victims of hate crimes.
Phone: Little Tokyo Office 213-473-3035
South Bay Office 310-819-8659

【Eradicating Hate Crimes】

In order to eliminate crimes against the Asian and Pacific Islander community, the cooperation of all is needed. Let us join together with the regional community – the consulate, Japanese citizens, and all people – to fight discrimination and hate against the AAPI community.