

Title: How We Can Beat Asian-American Hate Crimes Together

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There are many ways to approach the problem of de-escalating violence and racial attacks towards Asians. Of those ways, I believe we must focus on two major ideas so that we may be able to solve our problems. First is to educate the community, especially at an early age, so they can more willingly understand and accept our cultures. The second is to create laws and programs to help track and prevent Asian- American crimes.

With our younger generation, we must give them the opportunity to learn more about Asian- American culture and engage with it. I am lucky to have the opportunity to be involved in different Asian-American organizations like the BBFAA (Big Bend Filipino American Association) at an early age. However, had I never had a family directly involved with that organization, or ones that are similar, I would never have found a group that would connect me with my culture like I am today. Sadly, I imagine that there are many individuals who grew up like that. They are not connected because they never had the opportunity to. Thus, I believe there should be more clubs, programs and activities that allow students and children from all over the community to be able to learn about their own culture and new ones. Furthermore, as it is reported by the CDC in the article, “Cultural Influences on Child Development”, “Although the brain continues to develop and change into adulthood, the first eight years can build a foundation for future learning, health, and life success. ... How the brain grows is strongly affected by the child’s experiences with other people and the world.” (“Cultural Influences on Child Development”, paragraph 4). If we introduce to the children the wonders and beauty of our culture, especially at an incredibly early age, they will be knowledgeable about it.

We must protect this growth and change. In doing so, we must encourage the creation of laws and programs that will help prevent and track hate crimes. As John C. Yang, the president of the civil rights group AAJC, states in the 2021 article “Why Anti-Asian Hate Incidents Often

Go Unreported and How to Help.”, ““Unfortunately, there is no uniform database for collecting anti-Asian attacks, most of the data that we have is based on self-reporting from a website called Stop AAPI Hate, as well as our website at StandAgainstHatred.org," (“Thorbecke”, paragraph 6) . While the websites already in use have helped us record data of crimes, the creation of such a database can help lead to more accurate data being gathered. This would allow for more monumental and effective evidence to support creation new laws and programs which would help Asian-Americans, and other minorities; in turn helping to improve attitudes towards Asian-Americans.

We must understand that this will not happen overnight. Changing the mindset of one person can take a lifetime. To change the mindset of an entire generation will take time. Each person we will try and help educate will come from a different background and may very well be the exact opposite of us. Regardless, we need to be united and express our heritage. In the end, there will always be people who will fight tooth and nail against our movement towards equality. But there will also be others who will fight just as hard against them.

With my suggestions, we must follow the motto of the BBFAA, if we are to succeed. We must have “Kaisahan”. We as Asians must put aside our own hate towards each other. If we do not, how could we ever expect others to change and grow if we do not allow ourselves to do so. Together in “Bayanihan”, we must not let things like pride and ego hold us back. We must not think that the best idea is by one person alone, we need to involve everyone. If we are to succeed together, we must find compromise, not more obstacles in our way. We must encourage “Damayan”, for those who lack understanding and knowledge of our culture. We need to sympathize with these people and show them who we are.

Together through the education of our culture to others and promoting the creation of resources to track and prevent Asian hate crimes, we can start to de-escalate the violent attitudes that some in our nation have towards Asian-Americans. It may take time and effort, but together in cooperating with one another and being involved in the process, we can make this future possible.

## References

1) “Although the brain continues to develop and change into adulthood, the first eight years can build a foundation for future learning, health, and life success. ... How the brain grows is strongly affected by the child’s experiences with other people and the world.”

(“Cultural Influences on Child Development.” *Maryville Online*, 8 Apr. 2021,

<https://online.maryville.edu/blog/cultural-influences-on-child-development/>.)

2) ““Unfortunately, there's no uniform database for collecting anti-Asian attacks, most of the data that we have is based on self-reporting from a website called Stop AAPI Hate, as well as our website at StandAgainstHatred.org," John C. Yang,”

(Thorbecke, Catherine. “Why Anti-Asian Hate Incidents Often Go Unreported and How to

Help.” *ABC News*, ABC News Network, 18 Mar. 2021, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/anti-asian-hate-incidents-unreported/story?id=76509072>.)