

Minute: North Pacific Yearly Meeting on hate and violent incidents against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI)

As Friends, we share a vision of a social order based on the Testimony of Equality which embraces and seeks to transform all of human society. This vision and the inner transformation that enables us to see and live it, enhances our spiritual connectedness and can transcend our differences.

Friends believe that there is that of God in everyone and we should relate to one another in those terms. Everyone must be regarded as being of infinite worth and treated as a person who can be drawn by love to live a full and worthwhile life that demonstrates respect and consideration for others.

The goal of good human relations is a community in which each individual and each group can feel sure of opportunities for self-development, full realization of potential, and rewarding relations with others.

People of Asian descent, have long been subjected to racial slurs. A vast majority of the verbal and physical attacks in this past year also blame Asians for creating and spreading the Corona virus. When these incidents are taken to court, oftentimes the result is a felony only and not a hate crime. There has been a normalization of Asian Americans being treated as perpetual foreigners in the US.

A recent report by "Stop AAPI Hate" documented a 33% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes from 2019 to 2020 in Seattle. During the same period there was an aggregate 149% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes recorded in 16 of the nation's largest cities (including Seattle). In many cases the attacks are on women and the elderly. This increase has been felt by family members and friends who even fear going outside their homes especially at night.

North Pacific Yearly Meeting is deeply concerned about these recent increases in hate and violent incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI).

We encourage all Friends in North Pacific Yearly Meeting to become allies by following these suggestions made by Asian American community leaders:

--Speak out if you witness a hate crime or incident.

--Report the hate crime or incident

--Consider taking part in a training about hate (www.ihollaback.org or www.AsianAmericansAdvancingJustice-AAJC.org)

--Check in with your Asian American peers

--Learn about the history of Asian American discrimination

--Advocate for awareness in your workplace

--Reach out to your elected officials