

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Carmela Prudencio, Pacific Arts Movement, carmela@pacarts.org, Alex Villafuerte, SD Pride, alexv@sdpride.org

SAN DIEGO, April 9, 2020

Links:

- [Joint Statement](#)
- [Letter of Support](#)
- [Incident Report Form](#)
- [View Full List of Organizations](#)

April 9: Over 50 Local Asian Pacific Islander Organizations Release Joint Statement Denouncing Xenophobia, Racism, and Increasing Acts of Violence Towards Asian and Pacific Islander Communities

- *Groups call upon the community at large to avoid the use of harmful language including labels such as “China coronavirus”, “Chinese coronavirus”, and “Wuhan Virus,” when defining a global pandemic afflicting humanity as a whole.*
- *Community encouraging organizations and community leaders to sign onto letter in support of the API community*

WHAT:

In the wake of escalating concerns over the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), over 50 Asian and Pacific Islander (API) organizations and community leaders in San Diego denounce the racist attacks, discrimination, and xenophobia on the API community.

The coalition of organizations and leaders released a statement to stand in solidarity with API community members and businesses and are asking the region to be aware of the use of language that causes harm. The groups call upon the community at large to avoid the use of harmful language including labels such as “China coronavirus”, “Chinese coronavirus”, and “Wuhan Virus,” when defining a global pandemic afflicting humanity as a whole.

WHY:

While COVID-19 poses a very real threat to the world's health and economic stability, public reaction has led to subsequent harm for specific populations¹. Many Asian Americans, members from the organizations listed, and local API-owned businesses have reported being a victim of racism and xenophobia².

QUOTES:

Let's be very clear: neither race nor ethnicity caused the coronavirus -- and the hate we are seeing towards the API community is not only wrong but it's dangerous.

Coronavirus affects all of us. Defeating this disease demands that we come together as a people and show our strength and resilience. There is no room for any hate at any level.

-Assemblymember Todd Gloria

FACTS:

According to the *World Population Review*³, Asians make up 16.74% of San Diego county's total population.

The Asian American population in San Diego County is the fastest growing racial group according to a 2015 report⁴ by *Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles* and the *Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC)*.

The report revealed that San Diego County is home to 410,000 Asian Americans. One out of every seven residents countywide is Asian American. Between 2000 and 2010, the Asian American population in San Diego County grew 38%, faster than any other racial group.

In a recent KUSI interview⁵, City Councilman Chris Cate states there are 30,000 API-owned businesses in San Diego County alone and scares about COVID-19 have slowed trade.

###