

## How Asian Americans Can Confront Anti-Asian Violence in America

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March 27, 2021

(English Translation of Article from the *World Journal*)

[https://www.worldjournal.com/wj/story/121206/5343337?from=wj\\_catelistnews](https://www.worldjournal.com/wj/story/121206/5343337?from=wj_catelistnews)

A deep sense of fear and anger struck me as I watched the news about the widespread violence against Asian Americans. These incidents remind us that some continue to use skin color as a measure of belonging, and do not regard Asian Americans as true Americans.

Ever since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, vitriolic speech blaming Chinese and Asian Americans has grown ever more severe. Otherwise peaceful Asian Americans have become the targets of racist and xenophobic outbursts.

Our first instinct may be to withdraw, bottle up our outrage and force ourselves to calm down so as to not elicit more confrontations. But each of us must consider the following: while I may avoid trouble this time, who is to guarantee my safety next time? To protect our own wellbeing and the welfare of the next generation, we should mindfully adopt the following:

First, in our daily living and work environments, we should take the initiative to build bridges with other ethnic and racial groups. This will create an opportunity for others to strengthen their understanding of the Asian American community. Simultaneously, this will help each of us understand the views and struggles of those who do not share the same skin color. Participating in volunteer activities or civic organizations will increase visibility of Asian Americans among “mainstream” American society as well. Even the smallest of interactions can improve the view of Asian Americans. In the midst of discrimination, we need to develop as many allies as possible, including those in other groups, to combat similar violence in the future.

Second, making our voices heard is critical. It is necessary to report anti-Asian aggressions to law enforcement agencies so that government at all levels understand the pervasiveness of the problem. Participating in public demonstrations will further amplify our voices. In turn, media attention and civic organizations can exert positive influence on public opinion.

Finally, Asian Americans should continue to strive to break through the “bamboo ceiling” in politics, business, sports, movies, music, and other popular domains. The root of racial prejudice is dehumanization. When Asian Americans are commonplace in popular media, they will increasingly be perceived as fellow citizens facing similar struggles and capable of the same accomplishments as any other group.

It is inherently unfair that any group of Americans must shoulder the burden of proving to others that they are just as “American.” But by garnering allies, making our voices heard and ultimately being accepted, we can achieve a future where that is no longer necessary. This means reshaping stereotypes by having all Americans see Asian faces not as caricatures but as a rich tapestry of individuals and communities.