

**DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE
APRIL 2021**

As a Department of Pediatrics we are appalled by the increase in hate crimes and racism against Asian Americans. This increase has been noted since the start of the pandemic over one year ago, due to prejudice and fear around the COVID-19 virus, and encouraged by those in power inappropriately referring to the virus in racialized or region-specific ways. However recent incidents have brought the issue to national light again, so we feel it is important to restate our values as a department committed to inclusion, equity, and antiracism for our patients, our workplace, and our community.

Anti-Asian racism has a [long history](#) in the United States of America, dating back to the arrival of the first immigrants from Asian countries and the 1875 Page Act, which predated the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Policy shapes attitudes, and with over a century of anti-immigration policy directed at Asian Americans and other people of color, we know that this kind of racism has been part and parcel of American society for many decades. We recognize that anti-Asian racism, when [compounded with sexism](#), makes for a uniquely toxic environment for Asian American women in many parts of our country.

We recognize that the University of Virginia, with its history of leadership in the eugenics pseudoscience movement, has contributed to racist ideas about essential differences between groups of people. This has formed the basis of justification for racialized oppression of many groups, including Asian Americans, as well as the basis for stereotypes that are pervasive to this day. As members and representatives of this institution, we recommit ourselves to undoing this legacy by promoting inclusion, equity, and justice both within and outside our institution.

As you all may remember, last summer we started a departmental Anti-Racism Book Club. We want to reiterate that this book club is committed to anti-racism work as it relates to all communities, and is dedicated to ending oppression of all kinds everywhere. We remain open to new members and suggestions for any fiction and nonfiction books that fit these themes.

As a department we stand with the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community – a community that is an integral part of our department, our university, our town, and our nation. We encourage you to learn about and support the work of a few organizations committed to anti-racism work and to uplifting the AAPI community:

- [The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund](#)
- [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#)
- [Asian Pacific Fund org's COVID-19 Recovery Fund](#)
- [Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote](#)
- [National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance](#)

Here are additional [ways to support](#) the AAPI community.

In solidarity,

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