



PRESS RELEASE

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Stop Asian Hate in Canada

The emergence of COVID-19 brought on many challenges and changes, including the resurgence of the ugly head of racism, which gave birth to the organization of social justice movements, such as Black Lives Matter and more recently, Stop Asian Hate. Sadly, racism continues to be a social pariah and has escalated to where snuffing out lives has become as easy as swatting flies.

Systemic racism towards the Asian community has been in play for centuries, but more recently has gained international attention as news media reported attacks and murders targeting the Asian community. Targeting of Asians increased when it was reported that the first COVID-19 cases originated in China, and propaganda named China as being responsible for the pandemic.

Last month, the Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice published a report called, "A Year of Racist Attacks: Anti-Asian Racism Across Canada One Year into the COVID-19 Pandemic". In the report, they found that there were 1,150 self-reported cases of racism towards the Asian community from March 10, 2020 to February 28, 2021. Out of those 1,150 cases, 73% of cases included verbal harassment, 11% of cases included violent physical assault or unwanted physical contact, and 10% of cases included being coughed or spat on. Majority of the incidences occurred in public spaces (e.g., parks, streets or sidewalks), and mostly targeted individuals who had a language barrier, older adults, women, children, and youth.

What can we do to support the Asian community? In the report, targeted individuals want more public education, collective action against racism, policy changes, and more individual support. Here are some ways that we can support the Asian community:

- Report any anti-Asian hate crime incidents you have witnessed or experienced to **Fight COVID Racism** (a partnership of organizations that collects anonymous reports and uses the data to raise awareness of racism happening towards Asian-Canadians in mainstream media).
- Share mental health or other community resources with Asian communities.
- Raise awareness by discussing or sharing with your networks information on Stop Asian Hate.
- Support local Asian-owned businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic stigma.
- Donate to organizations that supports the Asian community (e.g., Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice and The National Association of Japanese Canadians).
- Attend **Bystander Intervention Training** to learn to identify, respond, and de-escalate situations related to racism and harassment. Hollaback! is a global organization that is working to end harassment with free training at <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>.
- Call out and challenge racism when you see it.

Statistics from https://mcusercontent.com/9fbfd2cf7b2a8256f770fc35c/files/35c9daca-3fd4-46f4-a883-09b8c12bbca/covidr racism_final_report.pdf

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