



*The National Conference for Community & Justice of Greater Dayton released the following statement in response to recent attacks against the Asian American community on April 13, 2020:*

Each day, there are more reports of attacks against members of the Asian American community across the country because of the coronavirus. This rise in incidents led to the creation of Stop AAPI Hate, an online tool for reporting hate crimes. Since it launched on March 19, the site has received over 1,100 reports of discrimination. In addition, the FBI is prepared for, and has released a statement warning individuals there may be a possible surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans.

Despite the uncertainty these days bring, one thing remains clear: fear and prejudice have no place in our communities. We can do better than this. In challenging times, we should be focusing on what brings us together, not what divides us.

NCCJ of Greater Dayton is committed to building a community dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and all forms of discrimination. Each of us has a role to play in building this community. Through the words we choose to describe this virus to the actions we display; we can all take part in making our country and our neighborhoods more inclusive places.

Facing discrimination can be difficult. However, it is the duty of us all to stand tall and speak out against oppression. A comment overheard in public or seen on social media may often seem like something small. History has shown us that there is an upward motion behind ignorance and hate. Comments escalate and things can get worse. We ask for the help of our communities in stopping the spread of this prejudiced rhetoric. In speaking up, and making statements, such as “please stop, what you are saying is hurtful and isn’t true” can go far in stopping this violence. An Asian American is not at any higher risk of contracting COVID-19. In difficult times, we often look to place blame on a group. The spread of COVID-19 was not caused by Asian Americans, and blame has been placed unjustly. By stopping this discriminatory language at its roots, we can limit hatred and make this world more equal.

The AAPI Hate Crime Reporting Site and additional resources can be found here:

<https://www.aapihatecrimes.org/>