



October 18, 2017

Dear API Chaya Supporters and Community Partners,

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, API Chaya does not endorse political candidates or take part in political campaigns. However, we find it necessary to respond to patently false information about API Chaya that a political candidate has recently published.

Jinyoung Englund, who is running for the Washington State Senate in the 45th District, posted on her campaign website that her opponent, Manka Dhingra, was supposedly responsible for:

**Mismanaging a Non-Profit:** Thirteen percent of money donated was spent on high salaries an overhead for herself and her staff.

[2012](#), [2013](#) & [2015](#) IRS Form 990 EZ

This accusation appears on Englund’s webpage that purports to be a “fact check” about her opponent (<https://jinyoungenglund.com/fact-check>). Englund repeats this accusation in a recent campaign mailing. She provides no basis for this accusation, but the links point to API Chaya’s tax returns for 2012, 2013, and 2015.

The tax returns disprove Englund’s accusation. The tax returns don’t mention Manka Dhingra because she was not a part of our organization, let alone as a manager, during those years. She was not a board member, nor was she a staff member. So she could not have spent any money donated to API Chaya, let alone for “high salaries.”

To be sure, Manka Dhingra helped to co-found Chaya, a nonprofit serving domestic violence survivors in the South Asian community, back in 1999. API Chaya resulted from the merger of Chaya with another organization in 2011. Dhingra remains a long-time supporter of API Chaya, but that has been the extent of her involvement.

We are deeply disappointed that Englund would offer up such a blatant lie undermining API Chaya's reputation. Our supporters believe in our mission of supporting survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The demand for API Chaya's free and confidential services continues to grow, and we are dependent upon our reputation to raise money to fund our programs and services.

API Chaya condemns Jinyoung Englund's false statement. We are demanding the immediate removal of the false statement from her campaign website and any related materials.

Sincerely,

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF API CHAYA



Minal Kode Ghassemieh  
*Board Chair*



Dan Shih  
*Board Treasurer*



Sharonyka Kumar  
*Board Chair-Elect*



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*Board Secretary*