ABOUT OCA - ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN ADVOCATES

OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates is dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs).

Founded in 1973, OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit, membership-driven organization based in Washington, D.C. with over 50 chapters and affiliates around the country. Touching hundreds of thousands of AAPIs each year, OCA works with its organizational partners, members, chapters, and supporters to empower the next generation of leaders.

WHY OCA PRODUCED THIS MANUAL

OCA is proud to present Responding to Hate Incidents: Community Action Guide, Third Edition. Designed as a practitioner’s guide, the manual offers victims and survivors of hate incidents, OCA members, and the general public step-by-step guidelines, checklists, resources, and best community practices. OCA will use the guide to complement education programming and inform racial equity policy. However, OCA offers this manual as an activist tool to all communities.

To find out more about OCA, contact:
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INTRO TO HATE INCIDENTS

Hate incidents are biases enacted against any of the following identities: race or ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity, sexuality, or disability.

Since the murder of young Chinese American Vincent Chin in 1982 by unemployed white auto workers, AAPI communities have united into organizing coalitions to fight for justice. The last two decades have also seen a rise in hate incidents motivated by Islamophobia, xenophobia, and political talk.

Multiply marginalized people are uniquely targeted by hate, so their experiences must be part of discussions and organizing efforts.

In 2017, the FBI documented 7,175 hate crimes, which is a 17% increase from 2016. Additionally, reports show that nearly 60% of hate crime victims were targeted because of their race, ethnicity, or ancestry.
REPORTING HATE INCIDENTS

Data is necessary for effective prevention and response to hate incidents. Reporting incidents:
- allows the victim to potentially receive victim assistance funds,
- holds the offender accountable,
- empowers other victims to report,
- lets law enforcement investigate,
- puts the community on alert, and
- supports policy action to stop hate incidents and assist victims.

Reporting hate incidents is simple: you can do so through OCA’s Hate Incident Reporting form (see below).

Provide your name, contact information, and a description of the incident. Depending on the seriousness of the incident, we’ll follow up with you to confirm you have the resources you need.

If you want to report a hate crime to the police, keep the following in mind:
- Consult an attorney if your immigration status may come into play.
- Tell them that the crime was bias motivated. You can bring a translator.
- Review your own police statement before signing for approval. You also have the right to a copy of the police report (although it may cost a fee).
- Retain your case number, the officer’s name, and badge number.
- Determine whether there is a victim assistance program and, if so, call it.
RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS

1. Get medical help, if necessary. As a victim, you may be eligible for state medical assistance.

2. Follow the legal process. A prosecutor may choose to try the offender. You have the right to consult with the prosecutor before trial and jury selection. If you want to pursue a civil suit, you should find your own attorney before the filing deadline.

3. Find mental health resources. Working with a therapist or counselor can relieve feelings of sadness and isolation.

Formal victim assistance programs can offer a number of helpful services including:

- Information about the criminal justice system and court procedures.
- Assurance that your civil rights are met.
- Assistance in preparing and processing a victim compensation form and impact statement.
- Help in obtaining an order of protection.
- Help in recovering property being held by the police.
- Communication with employers about court appearances.
- Referrals to social service agencies and mental health professionals, and
- Translation services.

Resources for finding an attorney:
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
- Asian American Legal Defense Fund (AALDEF)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
- Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

Find your local victim assistance program by contacting your state government or OCA.
COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Verify facts, then share accurate information through social media, email, a community listserv, or at a neighborhood meeting. Contact local community organizations, social justice groups, and concerned community members to build coalitions and leverage existing resources.

At your meeting,
- Go over facts and concerns,
- Take notes,
- Brainstorm goals and tactics,
  - Direct action, media coverage...
- Make a plan and delegate leaders,
- Choose messaging: "We want ___!
- Determine resources, and
- Arrange communication.

Remember to continue supporting the victim(s); use media as a communication vehicle; prepare talking points, messaging, and protocols for spokespeople; mobilize allies and community members; engage elected officials; center multiply marginalized folks; and educate yourself and others.