

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
51st JAACL National Convention
National Council Meeting
Virtual
July 18, 2021

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE RELATING TO PREVENTING AND STOPPING ANTI-ASIAN
HATE AND VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, there has been a rise in anti-Asian hate and violence across the United States, resulting in people of Asian ancestry being killed, beaten, and harassed without provocation; and

WHEREAS, the media and rhetoric of the 45th presidential administration spread falsehoods about COVID-19 and its cause, inaccurately linking it to people of Asian ancestry, which contributed to implicit bias against Asians, making others think it is “acceptable” to be hateful towards and to hurt people of Asian ancestry, fueling the rise in hate and violence ([American Journal of Public Health](#)); and

WHEREAS, the media and rhetoric resulted in the first spike in hate crimes in March and April 2020 and the reported hate crimes against Asians in 16 of the United States’ largest cities and counties were up 145% in 2020, which is inconsistent with hate crimes dropping by 6% overall, according to the [Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University San Bernardino](#); and

WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian discrimination amid the pandemic, documented 6,603 incidents of hate incidents from March 19, 2020 to March 31, 2021 and those who are being targeted include the elderly, with women making up 64.8% of all reports; and

WHEREAS, while racism and scapegoating increased in 2020-21, it is not new and is part of an over 150-year history of violence and hate against Asians and even longer for other communities who continue to be marginalized; and

WHEREAS, for decades, systemic oppression and implicit bias against people of Asian ancestry has resulted in the silencing of Asian voices, the stifling of careers, and contributing to the invisibility of Asian achievements and struggles; and

WHEREAS, the “model minority myth,” which was created by white Americans, the media, and those in positions of power, has contributed to this oppression and implicit bias, further hindered Asian advancement and perpetuated falsehoods about Asians and other people of color when convenient; and

WHEREAS, in 1859, racism and scapegoating of Asians resulted in Oregon amending its constitution prohibiting that no "Chinaman" can own property in Oregon and then other states, including Arizona, California, Minnesota, and Washington, followed suit with the 1913 Alien

Land Laws, making laws prohibiting Asians from owning property and possessing long term leases; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, negative newspaper editorials condemning and attacking Chinese immigration, resulted in the Los Angeles Chinese Massacre of 1871, the largest lynching in American history, where “a mob of 500 locals shot, hung, and stabbed innocent Chinese residents” (Chinese American Museum in Los Angeles); and

WHEREAS, the Page Act of 1875 was the first restrictive immigration law in the United States banning all Chinese women from immigrating to this country; and

WHEREAS, in 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act banned all Chinese people from immigrating to the United States which led to the Immigration Act of 1924 which banned immigration from all Asian countries; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, “race prejudice, war hysteria, and failure of political leadership” led to Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal of 120,000 men, women and children of Japanese ancestry from their homes to be incarcerated in concentration camps even though many were American Citizens; and

WHEREAS, anti-miscegenation laws were enacted and enforced in a majority of states criminalizing inter-racial marriage until the landmark civil rights decision in *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967, which found that such laws violated the Equal Protection and Due Process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, racism and scapegoating resulted in the murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, in Detroit, Michigan by two individuals who wrongly perceived him as Japanese and blamed him for the declining auto industry; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, hundreds of Asians, mostly Filipino working immigrants, were forcefully evicted from I-Hotel in San Francisco, California by police in riot gear; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Matthew Hubbard, a professor at Laney College, in Oakland, California, asked Phuc Bui Diem Nguyen, a Vietnamese student, “Could you Anglicize your name? Phuc Bui sounds like an insult in English,” demonstrating his arrogance and ignorance by asking his student to change her core identity for his convenience, and it is incidents like these that contribute to the invisibility and erasure of people of Asian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, during the 45th presidential administration, there was a rise in Southeast Asian refugee detention and deportation which significantly impacted the safety and physical and mental well-being of those affected; and

WHEREAS, throughout the United States’ history, this prejudice, discrimination, and violence have impacted all people of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government, including law enforcement, has discriminated against the

Asian, Black, Latin, Native American, LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities, escalating the hate and violence they are supposed to prevent; and

WHEREAS, this violence has continued today with the hate crime and murder of six women of Asian descent, five of whom were confirmed to be of Korean descent, in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16, 2021 and eight people, four of whom were Sikhs, were also shot killed in a FedEx operations center in Indianapolis on April 15, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) that the JACL advocates for mandatory ethnic studies curriculum for K-12 students across America to prevent future racially motivated violence and to promote acceptance and community building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National JACL and all chapters call on local and national media outlets, elected officials, and community leaders to denounce racial discrimination, white supremacy, and xenophobia and continue to highlight stories of achievements as well as experiences of hate crimes, violence, and harassment towards people of Asian ancestry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National JACL and all chapters support restorative and healing solutions to combat the violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National JACL and all chapters support legislation that will prevent the further hate and harassment on online platforms, such as California AB 587 (Gabriel), which holds social media companies accountable for addressing harassment on their platforms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National JACL and all chapters are encouraged to collaborate with immigrant, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and other Asian communities, as well as all marginalized communities to create community programs and advocate for policy and legislation that will support in community building and safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National JACL and all chapters collaborate with community-based organizations to address systemic barriers for reporting anti-Asian hate crimes by mitigating language or cultural barriers, or fear of immigration status repercussions.

Sponsored by: the Berkeley Chapter of the JACL, the Twin Cities Chapter of the JACL, the Florin-Sacramento Valley Chapter of the JACL, the National Youth Student Council, the Omaha Chapter of the JACL, the St. Louis Chapter of the JACL, and the Selanoco Chapter of the JACL.

Dated: 5/17/21

**Co-Sponsored by: Berkeley Chapter
(JACL entity)**

**Dated: 5/17/2021
Month/Day/Year**

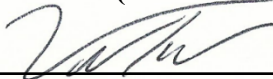
Approved by: Tara Umemoto Title: Co-President



Signed: _____
Signature

Co-Sponsored by: Twin Cities Chapter Dated: 5/17/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Vinicius Taguchi Title: President
Name (Please Print)



Signed: _____
Signature

Co-Sponsored by: Florin Chapter Dated: 5/17/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

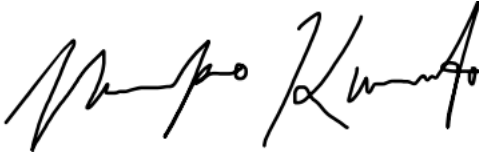
Approved by: Josh Kaizuka Title: Co-President
Name (Please Print)



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Signature

Co-Sponsored by: National Youth Student Council Dated: 5/24/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

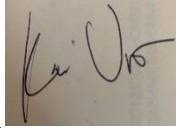
Approved by: Mieko Kuramoto Title: National Youth Rep
Name (Please Print)



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Co-Sponsored by: Omaha Chapter Dated: 5/24/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

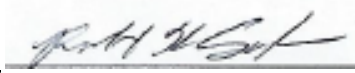
Approved by: Kai Uno Title: President
Name (Please Print)



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Co-Sponsored by: St. Louis Chapter Dated: 5/27/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

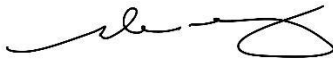
Approved by: Ron Sakai Title: President
Name (Please Print)



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Co-Sponsored by: Selanoco Chapter Dated: 5/27/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

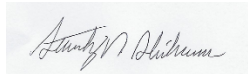
Approved by: Nicole Inouye Title: President
Name (Please Print)



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Co-Sponsored by: Seattle Chapter Dated: 5/28/2021
(JACL entity) Month/Day/Year

Approved by: Stanley N. Shikuma Title: President
Name (Please Print)



Signed: _____

Signature

Contact: Elizabeth Uno, Berkeley Chapter
Name

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Telephone

Please check one:

Fiscal Impact Statement attached

No Fiscal Impact (meaning that the resolution does not call for any action that will be carried out by JACL staff, or incur any costs to JACL)

