



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Message from the Keck Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Social Justice

The KSOM Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Office of Social Justice condemn the recent and growing hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community happening throughout the country. Sadly, the well-known cases in New York, California and Georgia are not isolated incidents. Yet, these publicly documented cases powerfully attest to the very real and ongoing threats to the safety of AAPIs. While many of us have now seen shocking images and scenes of physical harm done to innocent people, we must also acknowledge the emotional and psychological toll that the fear of an unprovoked attack can have on our AAPI brothers and sisters. These senseless acts of racist violence must not be tolerated or ignored. We strongly believe that every human being is to be valued, respected, and treated with dignity.

History has shown us that AAPIs have all too frequently been scapegoated during times of crises in America. We see this again in our present moment. Viewed as perpetually foreign and "other," AAPIs are often viewed with suspicion, and their inclusion within American culture and society has been provisional and precarious at best. Often overlooked in US history books, AAPIs helped build this country alongside early generations of other ethnic immigrants, working on America's railroads and agricultural fields. Today, AAPIs continue to contribute to American society, serving in industries from food service to the military, from business to healthcare, and everything in between. To our AAPI brothers and sisters, we say: ***We see you. You belong.***

We stand with our Asian American and Pacific Islander students and the entire AAPI community at Keck and USC, and offer our support and allyship. And to the greater Keck community at large, we encourage you to speak out and intervene when you witness anti-Asian violence. We cannot be bystanders in this fight. We must call out and resist racism in all its forms. Only then can we move towards a more just and truly anti-racist community.

This message is sent in solidarity with KSOM Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) and Office of Social Justice.