

Read the article about a global issue below.

ASIAN-AMERICAN IS NOT A DISEASE

Asia is one of the biggest continents in the world where many different ethnic groups live — not just Chinese. Yet, many Asian Americans are collectively being subjected to racism due to the novel coronavirus outbreak. “There’s a longer history of blaming Asia and Asian migrants and, by extension, Asian Americans for outbreaks of disease. COVID-19 is just the most current example of this history,” Cathy Ceniza Choy told the Berkeley News at the University of California.

Along with the fear of the spread, COVID-19 has also given rise to many racist remarks against and harassment of Asian Americans across the country. President Donald Trump categorized COVID-19 as the “Chinese virus.” Trump stated at a White House press conference that it could have been stopped in Wuhan, China, where the first case of COVID-19 was discovered. It is not ethical for someone with high authority to criticize a certain group of people.

Katherine Oung, a teenager in Florida, said in a New York Times article: “As the coronavirus spreads, there’s another virus spreading that we need to be talking about” after her classmate said Chinese people are “disgusting” and “dirty.” Many Asian Americans are being bombarded with hate and racist comments from many of their peers and community. Many Asian Americans including those who live in Detroit are anxious about being targeted by coronavirus racism. Last month, the Detroit Free Press reported “an elderly Chinese American had his grocery cart spat on by someone.”

It is a difficult time for everyone. Many people are feeling frustrated and angry, but it’s important to respect every group when generalizations are being made about certain races.

Sen. Stephanie Chang said, "The virus is a virus. It does not have a race or ethnicity. We cannot let fear during this uncertain time turn people toward prejudice and hate." Now is the time for Asian Americans to speak up and educate others. A crisis does not last forever, but its impact is everlasting. Crises give the opportunity to speak and come together strong as a community. Any sort of racism that subjects certain groups can be solved by educating the general public on how to be careful with the words they use. Simply telling people that their beliefs are racist is not going to change any of their perspectives. However, educating them on the beliefs they hold and the effect it can have on another person is crucial to provide as a citizen of a community and country.

Rising Voices of Asian American Families are doing just that. Formed as a nonprofit to promote civic engagement at the electoral and policy level, this organization started a #NoAAPIHate campaign to provide Asian Americans with a platform that allows them to speak out during this pandemic.

Asian-Americans are not a disease. They are human beings, facing the same deadly virus as the rest of the world. We are all in this together.

I. Choose the letter of the correct answer.

1. Why do Asians receive so much hate from America?
 - a. because Asians are more powerful
 - b. because of COVID-19
 - c. because Asians are versatile
2. Who said the phrase "Chinese virus"?
 - a. Rodrigo Duterte
 - b. Barrack Obama
 - c. Donald Trump
3. What is racism?
 - a. When people race with one another
 - b. When people insult another race
 - c. When people respect other people's race
4. What do you call the organization that started the #NoAAPIHate and allows Asian-Americans to speak up?

- a. Rising Voices of Asian American Families
- b. Rising Speakers of Asians Families
- c. Stop the Hate Community

5. Aside from Asians, who are also targets of racism?

- a. White Americans
- b. Black Americans
- c. British people

II. Choose true or false.

- _____ 1. Americans are treating Asians with utmost respect.
- _____ 2. It is proper for someone with high authority to criticize a group of people.
- _____ 3. Because of the recent events that happened, many Asian-Americans are anxious, frustrated, and angry.
- _____ 4. Educating people on the beliefs that they hold and the effect that it can have on another person is more important than by just telling them that they are racist.
- _____ 5. COVID-19 does not last, but its impact to people is everlasting.