



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



3530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1140 • Los Angeles, CA 90010 • TEL (213) 738-2816 • FAX (213) 637-4748  
HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <https://hiv.lacounty.gov>

## **TO END HIV, WE MUST END RACISM**

---

On the behalf of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, the Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force recognizes that these are extremely difficult, disturbing and painful times for us and our communities. We remain steadfast in solidarity with our Black/African American communities and vehemently condemn the pervasive, systemic racism that continues to plague our communities. “Without reckoning with our history of racial injustice and violence we will continue to be haunted by its ugly and painful legacy.” (Equal Justice Initiative [EJI].)

Racism IS a public health emergency and impacts us all. Racism impacts access to and the quality of health care and it dictates when, how and by whom health care is given or withheld. Medical mistrust by our Black/African American communities and implicit biases of the health care system are rooted in historical, institutional and socialized racism. It is without question we cannot end the HIV epidemic without dismantling these systems that continue to perpetuate the injustices that result in disproportionately poorer outcomes in our Black/African American communities. Our HIV community must remain diligent and committed to actively engaging in policy and action that promote health equity, eliminate barriers and address social determinants of health such as: implicit bias; access to care; education; social stigma, i.e. homophobia, transphobia and misogyny; housing; mental health; substance abuse; and income/wealth gaps.

As HIV advocates, we cannot sit idly by and allow these inequities to continue. We must act now by centering ALL of our work and conversations around the intersection of racism and the unequal burden of HIV on our Black/African American communities. The Commission is committed to taking action.

We stand in memoriam of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony Mc Dade, Ahmaud Arbery, and all those who have lost their lives to senseless acts of violence, police brutality and HIV/AIDS. We stand with you, we hurt with you, and we will take action to address these inequities and heal with you.

In Solidarity,

Los Angeles County Commission on HIV  
Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force

**#EndBlackHIV #KnowYourStatus #EndingtheEpidemic #VOTE**

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON HIV



3530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1140 • Los Angeles, CA 90010 • TEL (213) 738-2816 • FAX (213) 637-4748  
HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <https://hiv.lacounty.gov>

**TO END HIV, WE MUST END RACISM**  
**[#STOPAAPIHATE](#)**

The Los Angeles County Commission on HIV condemns all forms of hate and violence. We stand in solidarity with Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and condemn the attacks on our AAPI brothers and sisters across the Country. Acts of hate against AAPI communities have risen during the COVID-19 pandemic. An attack on one community, is an attack on all of US.

The harmful rhetoric of the previous administration and the repeated use of the term “China virus” to refer to COVID-19 have fueled the senseless increase in violence we are seeing across the country. These hurtful words and demonization of a particular community followed the long American history of using diseases to justify anti-Asian xenophobia, one that dates to the 19th and 20th centuries, and has helped to shape perception of AAPIs as “perpetual foreigners.”

Many scholars, historians, and activists have pointed out that racial violence against AAPIs often goes overlooked because of persistent stereotypes about the community. The pervasiveness of the model minority myth is a large contributing factor to the current climate. That false idea, constructed during the Civil Rights era to stymie racial justice movements, suggests that Asian Americans are more successful than other ethnic minorities because of hard work, education, and inherently law-abiding natures. Because the model minority myth suggests upward mobility, it creates a fallacy that Asian Americans don’t experience struggle or racial discrimination and misogyny.

We applaud the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in their decision to immediately identify funding to expand the County’s Anti-Hate program to combat hate against AAPIs. We call on all Angelenos to speak out against hateful and violent attacks on AAPI communities. Encourage those who experience or witness acts of hate toward the AAPIs communities to report an incident to 211 LA. Incidents can also be reported using the [www.stopaapihate.org](http://www.stopaapihate.org) website. The STOP AAPI Hate reporting form is available in 11 languages.

The HIV movement knows too well that hateful language has real stigmatizing consequences. The hatred and violence we are witnessing perpetuated against AAPIs are rooted in the same form of racism, discrimination, and misogyny that continue to hinder our progress in ending HIV. Join us in stopping hate and support the AAPI communities.

In Solidarity,

Los Angeles County Commission on HIV

<https://www.lavshate.org/>  
<https://stopaapihate.org/>

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.