

Anti-Asian Racism: A Call to Action

In 2020, worldwide outrage erupted against anti-Black racism. As part of the wide-spread anti-racism social protests, Providence Health Care (PHC) and the Medical Staff Association issued a statement strongly condemning systemic prejudice and bias. Unfortunately, recent events have once again compelled us to speak out.

On April 12th, not far from where George Floyd died, protesters are once again demanding justice as they mourn another black man, Duante Wright, killed by police. This tragedy comes on the heels of protests held throughout the US and Canada where thousands have gathered to condemn anti-Asian racism.

On Sunday, March 28th, Vancouverites marched in the streets with the Asian Canadian Equity Alliance to “Stop Asian Hate.” Since March 2020, there has been a tremendous increase in hate crimes against Asian people across North America. Vancouver police have seen a 700% increase in anti-Asian hate crimes this past year alone. While the COVID-19 pandemic may have precipitated this increase, it did not start this systemic racism. Since the 1800s, Canada has restricted rights for Asian populations, including such actions as allowing forced labour and slavery, imposing a head tax, and banning immigration to Canada.

Today, there is much to do as anti-Asian racism still festers in our society. We have issued the following statement to continue the dialogue, and a call to action to educate, take action and advocate against anti-Asian racism:

The recent attacks of Xie Xiaozhen, the six Asian people murdered in the recent mass shooting in Atlanta, as well as the physical attack on a young UBC student are all examples of the deplorable assaults happening all over the world today. These unspeakable acts of violence towards our Asian colleagues, friends and families are examples of a long line of systemic racism. Worldwide attention has erupted against these assaults and the racism Asian people feel every day. Counselors in Vancouver are overrun with patients needing help; with patients who don't feel safe to walk outside for fear of physical and verbal abuse. In a recent poll, 43% of Asians in BC have experienced racism in the last year and 87% say it's getting worse.

As an institution founded on the virtue of compassion and the tradition of social justice, Providence Health Care and the Medical Staff Association stand firmly against anti-Asian racism. Overt and covert anti-Asian racism has created systemic inequities in power, wealth, justice, education and health that continue to stifle the Asian community. Being part of a “model minority” has taken away the Asian voice, while also allowing others to think of Asians as the perpetual foreigner; being invisible until it disrupts white privilege. Fighting racism is about protecting and respecting human lives. These are the same principles that led many of us to a career in medicine and health care.

We would like to foster a culture of dialogue and inclusion. While talking about racism may be uncomfortable, experiencing racism may be deadly. Moving beyond conversations, we must take a stronger collective stand to recognize and eradicate racism in our workplaces, institutions and households.

We must demand change. It is work we need to do for a better world – for our patients, our colleagues, our children and the future of humanity.

Here are some ways that you can make a difference:

1. EDUCATE yourself and others about racism.

- Take the Implicit Bias Test here
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>
- Well researched resources for adults and children:
 - [Addressing Anti-Asian Racism: A resource for Educators](#)
 - [Anti-Asian Violence Resources](#)
 - [Act 2 End Racism](#)
 - [Project 1907](#)
 - [World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples](#)
 - [Fight COVID-19 Racism](#)
 - [Canada's History of Anti-Asian Racism That COVID-19 Has Amplified](#)
 - [Racial Segregation of Asian Canadians](#)

2. TAKE ACTION

- Speak up against racism that you witness or experience in our health care environment or system, so that we can take action to make necessary changes and stop it.
- Support Asian owned businesses

3. ADVOCATE

- Be an active ally, call it out and hold people accountable.
- Empower and amplify Asian voices and support career growth.

4. DONATE

- [Canadian Anti-Racism Network](#)
- [Canadian Society for Asian Arts](#)
- [Canadian and Southeast Asian Legal Centre](#)
- [Asian Canadian Benevolent Association For The Elderly](#)
- [Chinese Canadian National Council](#)
- [South Asian Women's Centre](#)