

DD Council Statement on Anti-Asian Racism Amid COVID-19 Pandemic

The Michigan DD Council values Diversity and Equity. We intentionally focus on race, ethnicity, and other intersectional identities to eliminate historical and systemic marginalization and create systems change.

It is important to be mindful of the ways fear and anxiety about a disease can lead to social stigma towards people and places. It's important to remember that stigma and discrimination can occur when people associate a disease, such as COVID-19, with specific populations, ethnicities or racial backgrounds – even though the disease is not specific to any particular group.

Unfortunately, as COVID-19 has spread, so has Anti-Asian racism. It is disturbing to know that members of our own community may be experiencing heightened stress as a result of prejudice, discrimination or harassment directed towards these groups in the wake of the pandemic. The Council encourages individuals to listen, support, empathize with, and advocate for the Asian-American and Asian community at this time.

It is our responsibility to stand together against discrimination. We can take the following steps to counter stigma surrounding COVID-19:

- Speak out against misinformation and negative behaviors, including stigmatizing or discriminatory statements made about groups of people.
- Be quick to communicate that associating risk with people or places is problematic.
- Be cautious about the content that is shared and make sure it does not reinforce stereotypes.
- Show compassion and support for individuals and communities with ties to stigmatized groups.

Thursday, March 26, 2020