



PLANTING THE SEEDS OF ACTIVISM



Who we are:

We are Asian American Organizing Project's 2022 Youth Organizing Fellows, a group of high school students who have been spending the summer exploring social justice and community issues. We created this zine as the culmination of our work.

Current Members:

Alex, Ger Pohe Shee, Isiah Vang, Kanah Vue, Lisa Vang, Mue Hsae Klue, Nay Gay, Nou Xiong, Samantha Singh, Skyla Lee

Purpose of the Zine:

We made this zine in order to raise awareness about different issues that we are passionate about. We hope that this zine will plant the seeds of activism by informing people about how they can take the first steps to impact change in their community.

Zine Cover by Skyla Lee

Table of Contents

1

4

7

11

18

ASIAN IDENTITY

RACISM

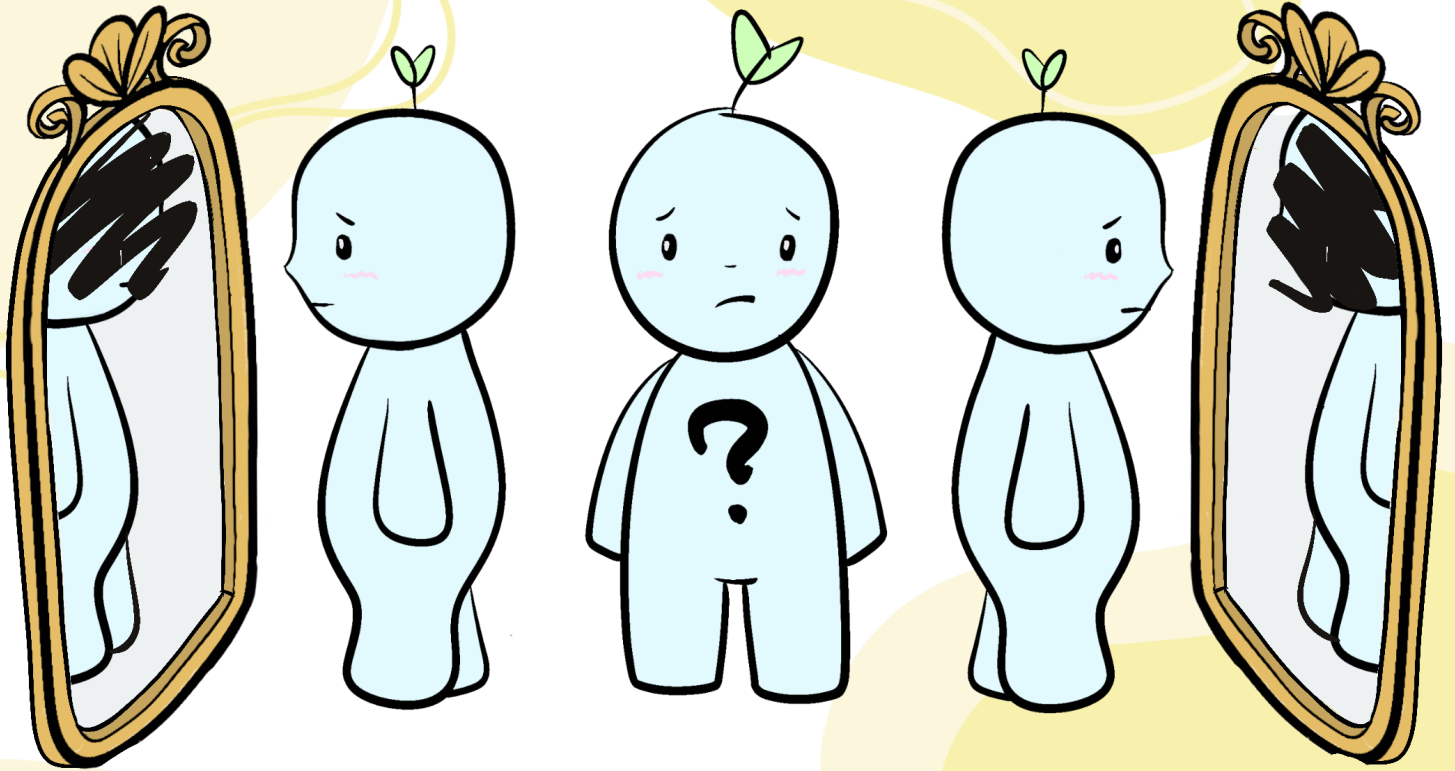
GENDER EQ.

REPRO. JUSTICE

PRIVILEGE

disconnected

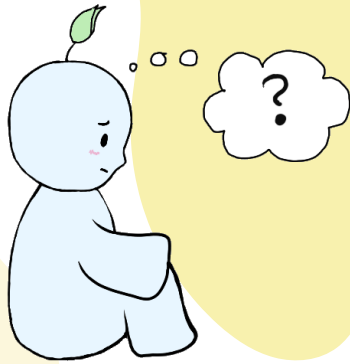
WHY DON'T I FIT IN?



Do you ever have that feeling that you're just stuck in the middle and can't pick a side? Does this feel familiar in any way? This state of ambivalence is a common issue that many Asian Americans experience. The term "Asian-American" itself is already hard to unpack. This is because the term "Asian" groups many people around the world together and thus doesn't really specify someone's origins. Secondly, there is the situation of also identifying as an American. Often times people feel the need to lean towards one side of their identity which results in ignoring another piece of them. How someone identifies is affected strongly by the people, ideas, and society they live in. In the case of Asian Americans, what makes the decisions difficult to make? Where and why do they need to fit in?

Where does the term Asian-American come from and what does it do?

“Asian American” was first introduced in 1968 by Emma Gee and Yuji Ichioka in protest to the term “oriental,” a word to identify what we call Asian Americans today. The phrase “Asian American” is used to **unite** people together under similar circumstances in order to have more of an impact. This term does unify and bring people together, however, with such a large and diverse group of people, some may and have felt overlooked and underrepresented.



This opens the conversation, “**Did all Asian Americans go through the same experiences?**” Many Asians find it hard to identify under that term because often times people don’t feel properly depicted by it in our society. As Americans, some feel forced to have to pick a piece of them to lean towards since a more specific and representative portrayal isn’t available to them. It appears “easier” to fit in that way. Nowadays, many Asian Americans like to use more specific terms like South Asian or Desi.

“I THINK WHEN I THINK OF THE ASIAN AMERICANS, I THINK THAT WE’RE ALL UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT. WE COME FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS WE COME FROM UNIQUE STORIES, NOT JUST AS A GROUP, BUT JUST AS INDIVIDUAL HUMANS.”

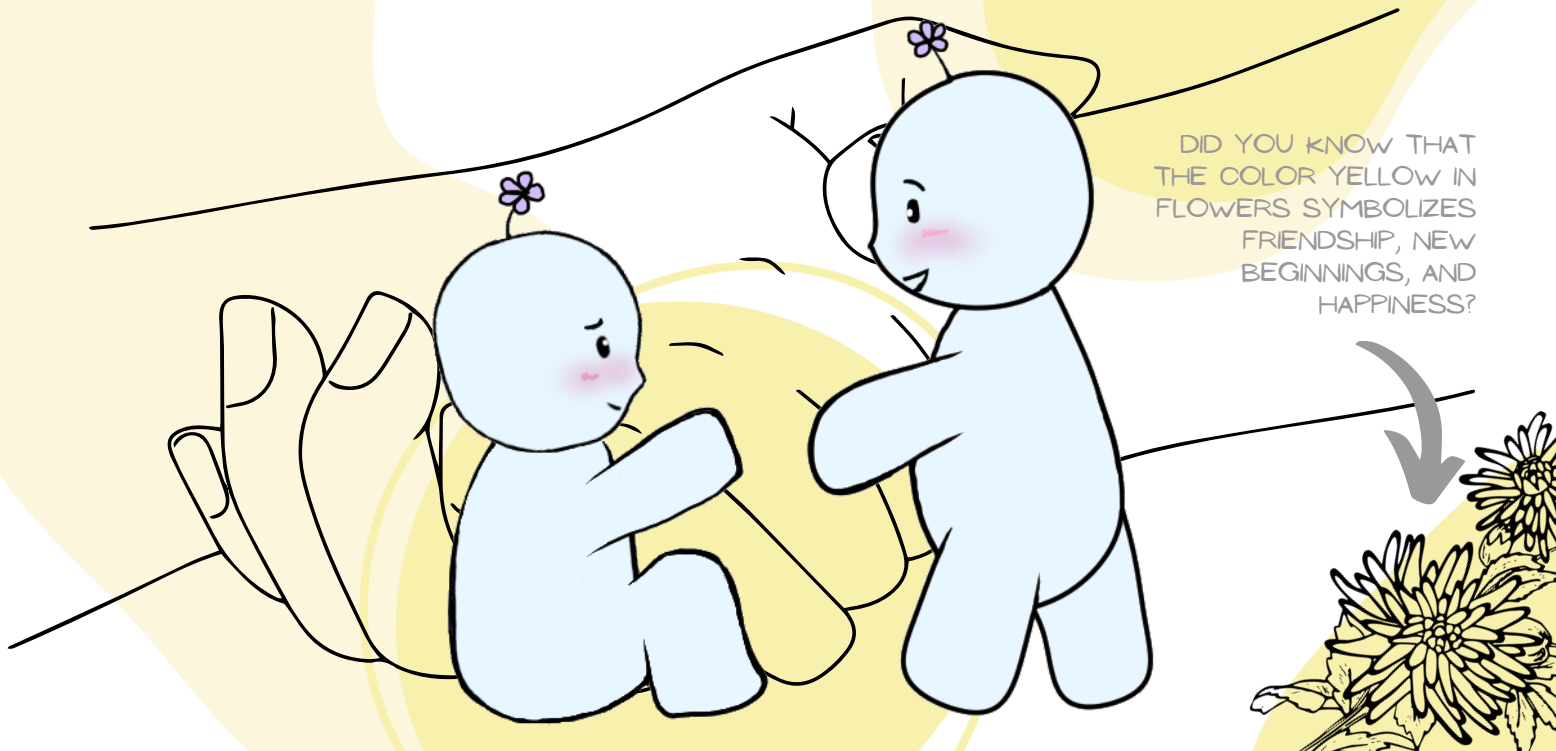
-MALI

Of course, not everyone desires to fit in. However, it’s also very human to have that craving. Social norms and values in Asian cultures and American culture differ greatly. This often leads to people thinking that in order to accommodate one society, you must sever a piece of you with the other. Leading to the second question: What happens if you don’t fit in? In any society if you do not “belong”, you may feel a sense of exclusion. For example, some are seen as “too Asian to be American” which can result in experiencing acts of racism. On the other hand, some are perceived as “too American to be Asian” and can lead to hearing that you’re rejecting your own culture and being “white-washed”.

So... now what?

Although experiences like these can feel very alone, you are not the only one in this so-called category. In fact, there are many people who fall within this grey area; embracing all the parts of you as a whole is more important. By truly fitting in, you should feel comfortable fitting in YOUR OWN skin and cherishing what makes you unique. People are all different. We don't all need to fit under two categories. Solving the problem to peoples' disquiet begins with acknowledging what's there, why it's there, and that they are not the only one experiencing it.

Proper representation is important for one's self-esteem and acceptance of their identity. It's okay to feel unsure and confused, however, this is a call for more voices on this issue. Start the spark and be the representation for others and future generations. As a community, we need to unite and overcome like the term "Asian American" was intended for.



how / when

ASIAN RACISM STARTED

Asian Americans are diverse and the fastest-growing racial group in America. They can trace their roots to more than 20 origin groups in East, Southeast, and South Asia, each with unique cultures and histories. Asians have been in the United States for more than 160 years and have long been targets of violent bigotry. The history of Asian Americans is one of exclusion, violence, and dehumanization.

“You’re here, supposedly, in a new land full of opportunity, but somehow have gotten trapped in a pretend version of the old country.”
-Charles Yu, Interior Chinatown

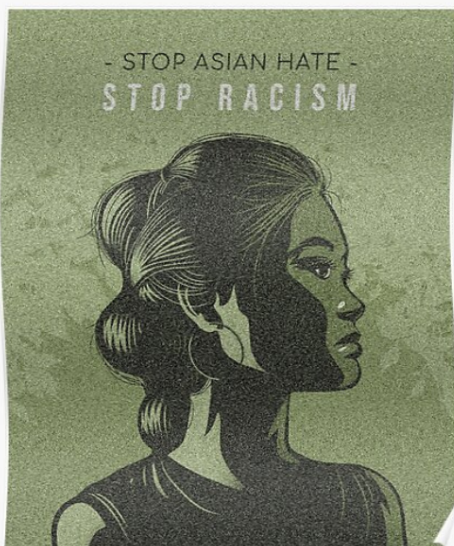
**STOP
~~DISCRIMINATION~~**



racism toward Asians

art, poem and experience

<https://www.redbubble.com/shop/hate+china+posters>



Meaning

The meaning of the poem that I wrote is basically telling an issue of Asian hate and racism, how we fear going out and not knowing what could happen. Losing our people and fearing what could happen when we go out, praying and seeing our people die and being hurt due to these condition's.

Experience:

This altercation of racism happened when I was going to lunch . My friend and I were heading to lunch and a girl came up to us and said "Asian sits over there" , then a friend of hers known as a "bystander " proceeded to comment " you guys have Covid-19". I've never thought of school as a racist place , since it was an public school I've always thought of it as all race was frayed equally and wasn't discriminated from other just off their beliefs and stereotypes

Poem

Fight fear of COVID-19 with facts

They judge me based off looks,
Same with books
people feared at first sight
The fear of going out envy's me
What could happen?
May another hit and run happen as they say
Can't go out without faces being made
No thoughts being known what might happen next
The weights
I fast
I pray
The hands being laid
Fears in our eyes
We lose our people
Just as we lose our faith in Santa Claus
Not deserving, fighting for what's right

What has racism towards Asian cause

Asian American

How does racism affect the Asian community?

As a result, Asian individuals are subject to increased mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression, and the severe psychological effects that victims of hate crimes often develop. Stated by Jagoo, Krystal. "Effects of White Supremacy and Xenophobia on Asian Communities."
(Verywell Mind)

Racism

Racism



The outbreak of coronavirus resulted in an increase of racism towards Asian Americans



Discrimination

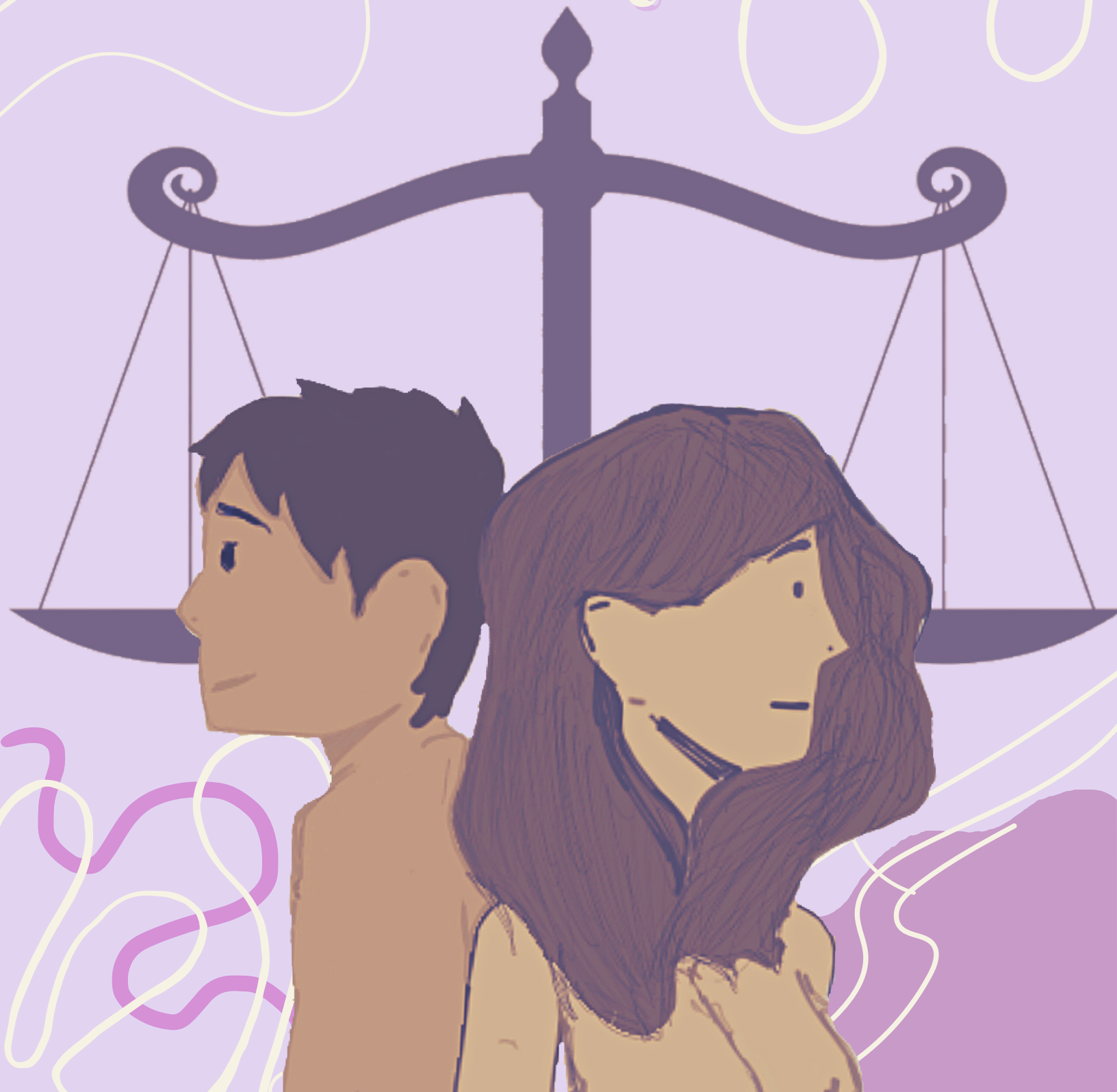
Throughout the COVID situation many Asians experienced hate, violent messages, and more

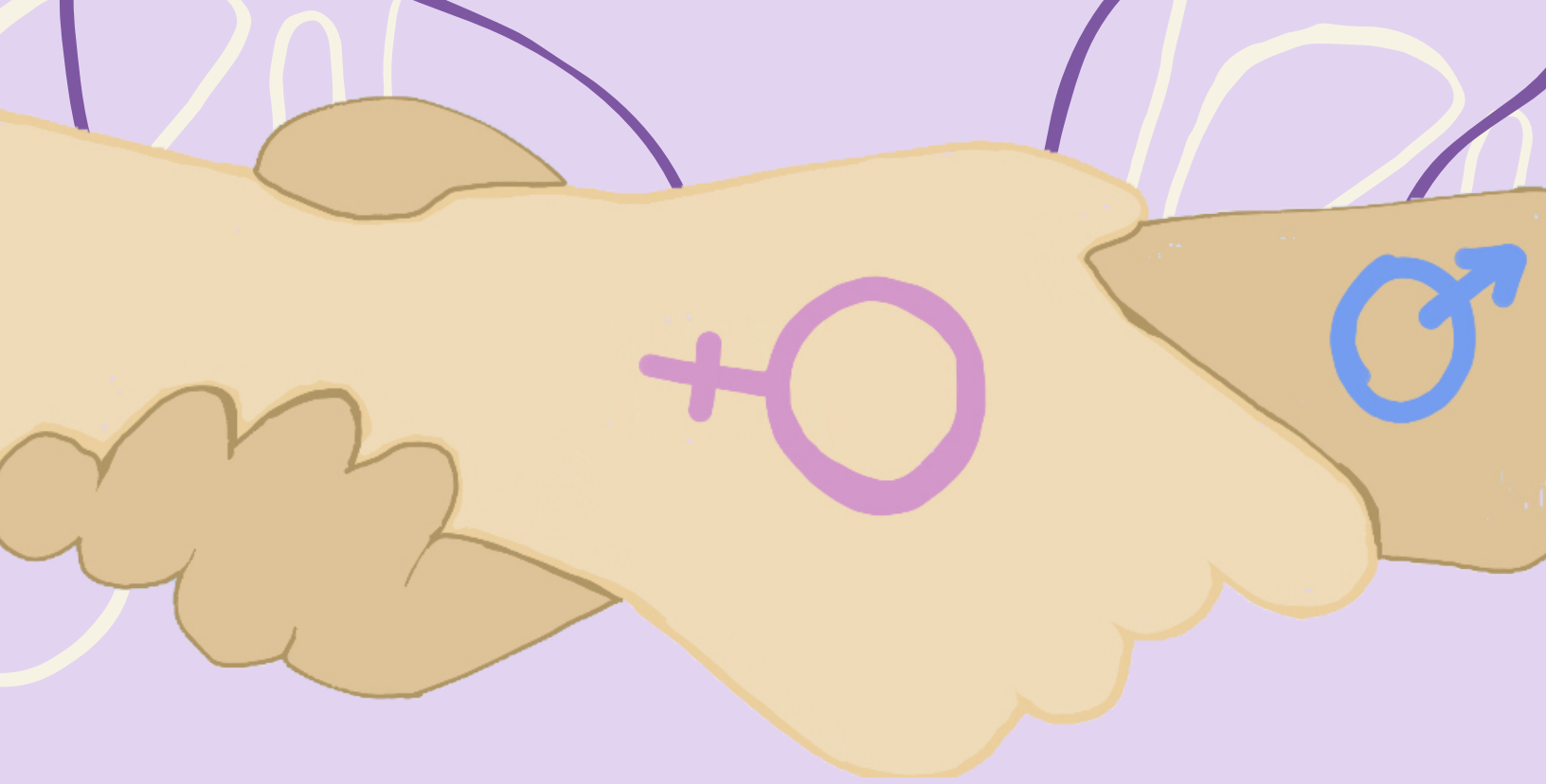
Protest



Many of us have protested but realized that protesting didn't make a change

GENDER EQUALITY





The fundamental human right of gender equality is violated by gender inequality; discrimination based on sex or gender.

Already, it has already attributed to limiting lifelong potential of children all over the world.



Girls weren't allowed access to education under Taliban rule. So Malala was stripped of the right to an education. Instead, she was taught that a woman's job was at home, in the kitchen, with the children.

"Asian parents treat their son with more respect than their daughters. They wouldn't ask their sons to go do much but would demand a lot from their daughter so they could grow up and learn how to be a good 'wife.'"

- anonymous



"Boys would tend to get picked first in gym because they were better at "sports" and whenever a female would like to play the sport they would doubt them or be surprised because girls are mainly known to be 'girly' and 'not into sports'"

- anonymous



South Korea has the largest gender wage gap according to the OECD. In South Korea, the average woman earns 65.4% of what a man earns, wedging a 34.6% wage gap. To put into perspective, a man can earn \$50,000 annually, but his female counterpart earns only \$32,000.



Ways to Fight Gender Inequality

Give girls access to education

Confront gender stereotyping by the popular and news media.

End violence and sexual assault against women

Reduce socialization by parents and other adults of girls and boys into traditional gender roles

Assure girls and women have access to menstrual health facilities

End child marriage

Give women platforms to be in power and achieve economic success

Share household chores and childcare equally

artist: Jae

jae.butterfly2006@gmail.com

Reproductive Justice

Samantha
Singh

Alex Vang

ASIA

Figures

A UC Berkeley graduate who interned at APIC (Asian Pacific Islander Coalition), which eventually turned into Asian Pacific Islanders for Reproductive Health (APIRH), co-founded by Peggy Saika, who rose up to associate director and eventually co-founder of Forward Together.



Eveline Shen

Born in 1945, Arizona, in a Japanese Internment camp, Peggy Saika went on to support domestic violence survivors, fight gender-based violence, and build an Asian American reproductive justice movement.

Peggy Saika



Statistics

Abortion rates among New York City women by ethnicity, 2014-2015.¹

Ethnicity	Population Counts	Abortions Rate per 1000 Women
Indian	115,907	30.5
Chinese	261,097	8.8
Japanese	18,056	17.0
Korean	54,043	5.1
Vietnamese	6,485	13.0

Asian American women in the Abortion Conversation.²

Asian American women are thought to be high-achieving, highly-paid, byproducts of the American Dream, a mere illusion perpetuated by the model minority myth. In reality, Asian American women endure the hardships that many Americans face; low-wage jobs, a lack of access to reliable health insurance, and like all other women in America, Asian American women rely on abortion access.

A repercussion of the model minority myth has left Asian American Women out of the picture regarding national data on reproductive health. Data from the federal government has reduced Asian American women to "other." There is also a lack of demand in the Asian American community for speaking out about reproductive rights, despite its significance to millions of Asian American women across the nation.

The fight for Asian American reproductive justice starts with data; including 'Asian' as a discreet category in federal data, and disaggregating data by ethnic subgroups to recognize and respond to the needs of all Asian Americans. Asian Americans must speak out and come to the defense of their reproductive rights, opposing anti-abortion legislation and supporting the move towards expanding abortion access.

¹ Desai, Sheila, et al. *Differences in Abortion Rates between Asian Populations by Country of Origin and Nativity Status in New York City, 2011–2015*. 8 July 2021, mdpi-res.com/d_attachment/ijerph/ijerph-18-06182/article_deploy/ijerph-18-06182.pdf.

² Choimorrow, Sung Yeon. "AAPI Women Have Been Overlooked in the Abortion Fight. But Our Voices Matter." <https://www.thelily.com>, 1 Oct. 2021, www.thelily.com/aapi-women-have-been-overlooked-in-the-abortion-fight-but-our-voices-matter/.

Her face was hidden by a sinking brim hat, and her body was shrouded in a black cloak. From the pale-skinned, scarlet horned, Va'orns of the North. Sudazons with their blue-tinted complexion, of the East. Grelegs with their black fangs, of the deep. Now with the skin of loose black fabric, they had all become one, the women of Vrokuun.

She was Va'orn, Ida, or 0082 they called her. Raised on anecdotes of a perfect world, where the ingenious Anagians and their bullet trains, mega skyscraper projects, and cyber-cars, saved the Vrokuun people.

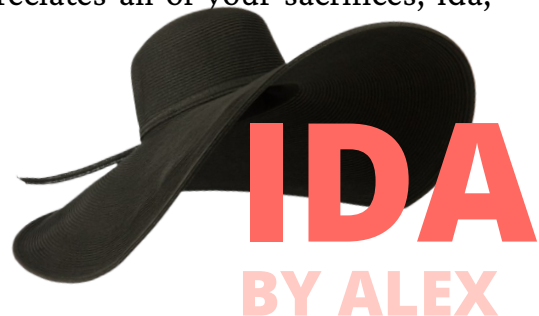
However she had not been lucky enough to be oblivious, the Anagians calling upon the remaining fertile black-cloaked women of Vrokuun to undo the decades of atrocities, famines, and sterilizations, which were claimed responsible by *no one*. After two years of service, life was less a gift, nothing more than a product mass-produced in the factories that had risen up across the Vrokuun lands.

She was brought down a hall, escorted by two tall Anagian soldiers carrying overbearing amounts of armor on their shoulders, their arms locked into their rifles. The only signs of sentient life in the troops being the amplified muffled breathing from their masks.

Past heavy sliding iron doors, she entered the eye of the colosseum, not bothering to raise the brims of her hat. She knew that she was the closest she'd ever be under the eye of Judaro Maycor himself, with fragile human skin and a peachy complexion, hailed as Conqueror of the Vrokuuns, an Anagian war hero.

The soldiers lead her to a single chair in the middle of the colosseum, where she was then sat.

"The Crown of the Anagian Kingdom appreciates all of your sacrifices, Ida," thundered a deep male voice.



ASIAN AMERICAN REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

U.S. state policies have been trying to undermine and restrict abortion for decades. Specifically, the **Hyde Amendment** denies federal funding for abortion services in certain public health care programs. This makes it **difficult** and **often impossible for AAPI women* with low incomes** to exercise their right to make personal decisions about their reproductive health.

AAPI

Lawmakers have been **ATTACKING** our rights and **IGNORING** the needs of AAPI communities. When AAPI women are allowed to make decisions over their bodies and reproductive decisions, it **benefits everyone**.

NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S
FORUM

AAPI women **lose** their ability to decide how and under what conditions they want to raise their families. Placing limits on abortion can have **devastating effects on the health of AAPI women**, especially marginalized people (i.e. low-income people, immigrants, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, and those living at the intersections of these identities).

SAMANTHA SINGH



SOWING THE SEEDS OF ACTIVISM: GET INVOLVED

Centering Asian Folks in Reproductive Justice Movements

It is necessary to **invest in organizations** that serve AAPI communities, as well as making **AAPI women as visible as possible** to create a successful reproductive justice framework.

SAMANTHA SINGH



AAPI WOMEN DEMAND TO BE SEEN AND HEARD. We envision a future in which AAPI communities can realize Reproductive Justice and reject the racism and misogyny that too often define what it means to be an AAPI woman in America.

NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC WOMEN'S FORUM

Advocating for Our Rights Against Abortion Bans

Donating to **abortion funds**, supporting **reproductive justice organizations**, and organizing and attending **rallies** are a couple of many ways to advocate for our rights against abortion bans. **Educating yourself** on abortion laws in your state and **urging lawmakers** by emailing/calling them to protect abortion rights is also important.





Planting the Seeds of Activism

-

"It is a privilege to ignore the consequences of race in America." - Tim Wise

Privilege of Race

America in the eyes of society is seen as a white country. As many jokes as we make about white privilege, it is real and true in our world. When someone thinks of the average American, they do not think of a person of color. If they did, the term minority wouldn't exist. America is a white country because a majority of it's population is white, but this is no excuse to deny its diverse population.

Though when I say majority, I mean around 60% of the population is white. The other 40% is the mix of minorities.

You cannot deny how people will react differently to someone depending on their race.

To deny and ignore there is privilege within race is to deny the reality many of us face daily. Many who are aware of this gap of privilege within race are those who have experienced the cruelty of it firsthand themselves.

“Ignorance of how we are shaped racially is the first sign of privilege”

- Tim Wise

There is a privilege in being born a certain race. What comes with the race your born with is the racism and stereotypes attached to it. The more hurtful the stereotype, the less opportunities you have and instead the more struggle you face.

There is privilege in being born a certain race. How your culture or religion may not be something you need to stress about. Not needing to fret about how others will view you at first glance due to your race is a privilege not many of us get to share. How you don't need to worry about dirty jokes and hurtful comments by the average person.

This is not to deny that everyone struggles despite race. This is to acknowledge that America is built with white people in mind first. Barely do they cater to it's diverse population. We see it in the news, we hear about it on blogs and ads that pop up throughtout our lives. Are we to deny that the stereotypes that come with our race causes more pressure on us?

Not only that, but a majority of minorities are stuck in the lower class and have been for generations. When it comes to money or knowledge, we are stuck in a suffering loop. Opportunities we could have are given to people of a higher class and we are stuck working harder to be even given the chances they are given freely.

"It is a luxury not to have to think about race, or class, or gender. Only those marginalized by some category understand how powerful that category is when deployed against them"

- Micheal Kimmel

But with your race comes the privilege to speak out.

Whether it be knowing your voice will speak to a larger audience, or understanding the pain through your experiences. There is privilege within the way we understand and go through society through our race, but there is also experience that comes from that. It's important to understand your privilege because being ignorant or wanting to avoid these topics hurts, but it's an important step in starting to fight at the roots of this divide within races. Understanding how being a certain race makes you privileged in society is important for growth and open mindedness. If we can use privilege and become aware of it, we can slowly defeat all these issues causing a gap between races, and finally have us all come to terms.

“You cannot talk about race without talking about privilege. And when people start talking about privilege, they get paralyzed by shame”

-Brene Brown

Bibliography

Racism

De Leon, Adrian. *"The Long History of Racism against Asian Americans in the U.S."* PBS NewsHour, 9 Apr. 2020, www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/the-long-history-of-racism-against-asian-americans-in-the-u-s.

"Racism towards Asian Americans Is an Integral Part of United States History" - YWCA Columbus. www.ywcacolumbus.org/racism-towards-asian-americans-part-1/.

Asian Identity

Ruiz, Neil G., et al. *"What It Means to Be Asian in America."* Pew Research Center Race & Ethnicity, Pew Research Center, 2 Aug. 2022, www.pewresearch.org/race-ethnicity/2022/08/02/what-it-means-to-be-asian-in-america/#this-is-how-i-view-my-identity.

Zhou, Li. *"The Inadequacy of the Term 'Asian American.'"* Vox, Vox, 5 May 2021, www.vox.com/identities/22380197/asian-american-pacific-islander-aapi-heritage-anti-asian-hate-attacks.

Gender Equality

Delfino, Devon. *"12 Countries Where Men Earn Significantly More than Women."* Business Insider, Business Insider, 17 Aug. 2018, www.businessinsider.com/countries-with-the-gender-pay-gap-2018-8?scrlbrkr=d92f52be#2-estonia-283-11. Accessed 16 Aug. 2022.

Save The Children. *"Gender Discrimination Causes Inequality between Girls and Boys around the World."* Save the Children, Save the Children, 2021, www.savethechildren.org/us/charity-stories/how-gender-discrimination-impacts-boys-and-girls.

UNICEF. *"Gender Equality."* UNICEF, UNICEF, 2015, www.unicef.org/rosa/what-we-do/gender-equality.

Reproductive Justice

Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice. *"New Vision."* Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, 2005, forwardtogether.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ACRJ-A-New-Vision.pdf.

NAPAWF. *"Visibility, Voice, Vision: Asian American and Pacific Islander Reproductive Justice Agenda."* NAPAWF, NAPAWF, 27 May 2021, www.napawf.org/our-work/content/2021/5/27/visibility-voice-vision-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-reproductive-justice-agenda. Accessed 16 Aug. 2022.

Privilege

2022b. *"US Population by Year, Race, Age, Ethnicity, & More."* USAFacts. USAFacts. August 16, 2022. https://usafacts.org/data/topics/people-society/population-and-demographics/our-changing-population?gclid=CjwKCAjwo_KXBhAaEiwA2RZ8hEMExD-4jwVB6gvyiRPvycV4Ke1QWTSf9hqaLxQT_z-IkN__Ngu8RoCRx8QAvD_BwE.

STOP ASIAN HATE DETENER EL ODIO ASIÁTICO-
STOPPEN SIE ASIATISCHEN HASS ARRÊTEZ LA
HAINÉ ASIATIQUE 停止亚洲仇恨 アジアへの憎しみを止
めろ 아시아 혐오를 멈춰주세요 תפסיק את השנאה האסימתית
STOP ASSIESE HAAT STOP AZIATISCHE HAAT
ΣΤΑΜΑΤΗΣΤΕ ΤΟ ΑΣΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΜΙΣΟΣ ОСТАНОВИТЬ
АЗИАТСКУЮ НЕНАВИСТЬ توقف عن الكراهية الآسيوية
СТОП АЗИЙСЬКОЇ НЕНАВИСТИ LOPETA AASIAAN
VIHA STOPP AIATISKA NAT HÆTTU ASÍSKA NATUR
BASTA L'ODIO ASIATICO АЗИЯЛЫҚ ЖЕКЕНДІКТІ
ТОҚТАТУ ایشیائی نفرت کو روکیں۔ بंद करो एशियाई नफरत
АЧА ЧУКИ ЯА WAAIA JOOJI НАСАУВКА ААСИЯ
STOP HATE ASIA ഘനഹാമനൈദൻഷ്ഠൈഷ ASYA
NEFRETİNİ DURDUR TIGILAN ANG PAGKAROPOOT NG
ASYANO SISPANN RAYÈ AZIYEN DURO ASIA
IKORIRA YEKA INZONDO YASE-ASIA YIMA INTIYO
YASE-ASIA NGÙNG GHÉT CHÂU Á एसियाली घृणा रोक्नुहोस्
OSIYLARNING NAFRATINI TO'XTING ஆசிய
வெறுப்பை நிறுத்துங்கள் USTAVITE AZIJSKO
SOVRAŠTVO STOP URĀ ASIATICĀ ਏਸ਼ੀਅਨ ਨਫ਼ਰਤ ਨੂੰ ਰੋਕੋ
PARE O ÓDIO ASIÁTICO Kwụsị ịkpọasị ASIA
ԴԱԴԱՐԵՑՆԵՔ ԱՍԻԱԿԱՆ ԱՏԵԼՈՒԹՅԱՆԸ - STOP DET
ASIATISKE HAD ഘനഹാമനസ്സൻഭ്യാഭ്യാ STOP ASIJSKÉ
NENÁVISTI НАФРАТИ ОСИЄРО бас кунед
HENTIKAN KEBENCIAN ASIA Aziya ýigrenjini bes et
متوقف كنيد STOP AZJATYCKIEJ
NIENAWIŚCI د آسيا کرکه ودروی HOOPAA ANA IA ASIA
आशियाई द्वेष थांबवा STOPPEN ASIAN HATE ایشیائی نفرت
Stop fuath na hÁise એશિયન હેટ બંધ કરો