

Learning Rights Law Center's Statement of Solidarity with our AAPI Communities

Learning Rights Law Center condemns all forms of racism against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. There is a long, troubling history in the United States of hate crimes and incidents of racism and xenophobia directed at our AAPI communities. For instance, the Page Act of 1875 barred Asian women from entering the U.S. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 banned both new immigrants and existing residents from becoming U.S. citizens. The Japanese American Internment Camps of 1942 ordered the internment of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Sadly, the past year has seen an increase in racist and xenophobic assumptions, behaviors and reported attacks against AAPI persons, many of whom are wrongfully perceived as responsible for the COVID-19 outbreak. The mass murder of AAPI community members in Atlanta on March 17, 2021 is a horrifying, heartbreaking and shocking illustration of this this racist behavior. These actions and the resulting increase in fear and anxiety affecting our AAPI communities must not be tolerated.

The educational system is not immune. Too often students of color face discrimination in their learning environment that reflects societal racism. With the current rise in xenophobia, racism and violence directed at the AAPI community, it is understandable that AAPI parents are concerned for the wellbeing of their students as they decide whether to resume in-person instruction. As an organization dedicated to education equity, we want to affirm our conviction (particularly in the current climate) that schools should be a safe place to learn for all students and free from racism, discrimination, bullying and harassment of any kind.

Learning Rights reiterates its commitment to racial justice, condemns these horrific acts of racism and violence and stands in solidarity with our AAPI communities.
