

The undersigned Bar Associations together denounce the xenophobia against Asian and Asian American communities in Colorado.

COVID-19 is a global pandemic and there is a need to be informed to stay safe and healthy. However, our Asian brothers and sisters have been the targets of xenophobic attacks as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to intensify.

As the new coronavirus impacts the Colorado community and well beyond, we support the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Colorado (APABA Colorado) and their national chapter, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), as well as numerous civil rights organizations around the country in condemning discriminatory and xenophobic treatment of Asians and Asian Americans in response to the coronavirus. The risk of coronavirus is not at all connected with race, ethnicity, or nationality. Countries worldwide need to address prevention and treatment issues, not just China or other Asian countries. We encourage all individuals to follow the guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local and state public health departments in response to the coronavirus. The use by elected leaders of rhetoric such as the “Chinese Virus” when referring to the coronavirus fuels racism and bigotry—putting Asian American individuals and communities at risk—at a time when support is needed in and for all communities. We strongly condemn such inflammatory and irresponsible language.

Those experiencing hate crimes or incidents are encouraged to contact local law enforcement or the FBI Denver Field office.

The Denver Police Department has a number to call to report bias-motivated crimes. That number is 720-913-6458. If a bias-motivated act is happening in real time, call 911.

NAPABA provides additional resources for reporting hate crimes and bias incidents as well as pro bono representation options. Please visit <https://www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources> for more information,

In solidarity,

