



National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Statement Opposing Hate- and Bias-Motivated Acts

Endorsed January 2016

WHEREAS, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) is the national association of Asian Pacific American attorneys, judges, law professors, and law students, representing the interests of over 50,000 attorneys and approximately 75 national, state and local Asian Pacific American bar associations; NAPABA members include solo practitioners, large firm lawyers, corporate counsel, legal service and non-profit attorneys, and lawyers serving at all levels of government; and NAPABA is committed to addressing civil rights issues confronting Asian Pacific American communities and people of color;

WHEREAS, members of the Asian Pacific American community, which is vastly diverse in terms of national origin, ethnicity, and faith traditions, and other communities have been the targets of hate crimes and hate speech;

WHEREAS, racial and religious minorities are disproportionately targeted for hate-motivated acts, which instill fear in both individual victims and the broader community;

WHEREAS, children are increasingly targets of hateful and biased acts based upon how they look or the groups to which they belong, with more than one-quarter of students between the ages of 12 and 18 reporting being bullied at school during the 2010-11 school year and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders recognizing this trend by partnering with executive agencies to launch an AAPI Bullying Prevention Task Force and bullying prevention campaign.

WHEREAS, hateful or biased speech, particularly when propagated by public figures—including candidates for political offices—provokes or intensifies public hostility and violence toward members of minority groups;

WHEREAS, while freedom of expression is an important right, hate-motivated violence or hateful or biased speech toward any individual or community based on race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation is in contravention of American values and principles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NAPABA:

1. Strongly condemns hate crimes and hate- or bias-motivated speech targeting Asian Pacific Americans and others based on race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, or sexual orientation.

2. Supports efforts to combat hate violence, bullying, and hate- and bias-motivated speech and to promote tolerance in America, including through better data-collection and monitoring of hate crimes by law enforcement agencies.
3. Authorizes its president, board, and staff to communicate the content of this resolution to its members, affiliate and associate organizations, other bar associations, members of Congress, the Administration, the press, and others and to take steps to implement, as they deem necessary.
4. Supports this resolution as a policy priority until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.