



**"I don't think there will ever be a time when people will stop wanting to bring about change."**

Yuri Kochiyama

As we reflect on the last year, the Full Circle Project at Sacramento State continues to center the importance of community and working collectively toward social justice. We mourn for the lives that we have lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the increasing violence targeting our BIPOC communities. We hold close to us the family and friends who are personally impacted and hurt.

Our communities have witnessed and experienced the rise of anti-Asian rhetoric during last year's presidential election, and we see an increase in anti-Asian hate and violence targeting the elders, women, and immigrants and refugees of the Asian American community. The research group Stop AAPI Hate has received more than 2,800 reports of anti-Asian incidents nationwide last year. About 44% have taken place in California with several recent reports here in the Sacramento region.

As a collective community, we must fight and seek accountability for the racist actions and hate crimes against APIAs around the COVID-19 pandemic and address the history of anti-Asian sentiment and discrimination in our nation. We must be willing to confront racism in all forms throughout our society, including in our own Asian Pacific American communities, holding those around us accountable, and working in solidarity toward change.

We have seen the COVID-19 pandemic expose the deep inequality still in our society. There are disproportionate infection and death rates among Black, Brown, Pacific Islander, and Native people. There are dangerous working conditions for immigrants who are also essential workers, especially those who are undocumented. The poor, who are disproportionately people of color, are clearly the most harmed by the sudden economic downturn.

The Asian American civil rights movement and Asian American Studies would not be what it is but for the Black liberation and civil rights movements that preceded and grew alongside us. We have a moral imperative for our communities to work together in solidarity toward the fight for racial and social justice.

The core curriculum for all Full Circle Project students has always been, and will continue to be, firmly centered on Ethnic Studies, Asian American Studies, social justice, and role of university students as key constituents in movements for social change. We will continue to provide our students with:

- an anti-racist curriculum and anti-bias pedagogy,
- the knowledge and skills to confront the heightened racism we are witnessing today,
- training about intersectional, multicultural and multiracial allyship, and
- intentionally planned opportunities to fight racism and confront social inequalities.

We clearly understand there must be a long-term commitment to fight racism on our campus, in our community, in our nation, and in our world. But it all begins right here, right now, with all of us.

**“We urgently need to bring to our communities the limitless capacity to love, serve, and create for and with each other. Grace Lee Boggs**

*In community,*

The Full Circle Project

California State University, Sacramento