

R W2021.13

**A Resolution Adopting a Government Statement Condemning Anti-Asian Hate Crime**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

March 17, 2021

Sponsors: Taewon Hwang, Kayla Rothstein, Tyler Watt, Sungmin Cho, Anna Colvin, Gabriela Torres, Suki Zhao, Sarah Salino, Magda Wojtara, Selena Bazzi, Max Stoneman, Alli Goodsell, Jacob Cohen, Cameron Rifkin, Riley List, Caroline Theuerkauf, Sophia Rich, Tiffany Crews, Mollie Berglund, Claudia McLean, Salma Ammar Hamamy, Major Stevens, Jordan Juliao, Lissette Ramos, Mary McKillop

**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG not only values diversity, equity, and inclusion (hereafter DEI), but also the implementation of these values; and,

**Whereas**, “Anti-Asian hate crime” continues to surge amid the COVID-19 pandemic in forms of hate, violence, harassment, and discrimination towards the Asian community affecting those in our community and those related to them; and,

**Whereas**, a lack of awareness obscures an integral issue antithetical to the values of our community and the voices of those affected by these issues; and,

**Whereas**, the currently prevalent demographic term “Asian American” fails to recognize the struggle of Asian individuals in the U.S. who are affected by the hate crime but do not identify as Americans; and,

**Be therefore resolved**, that LSA SG adopts the statement regarding Anti-Asian Hate Crimes attached in Appendix A; and,

**Be it further resolved**, that LSA SG takes responsibility to address the lack of awareness of the issue and inform students on the issue and on actions they can take through advertisement provided by the LSA SG Communications Committee (Comm); and,

**Be it further resolved**, that LSA SG demonstrates solidarity to all members of the University of Michigan community who are affected; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, that LSA SG establishes a more comprehensive demographic term to include all Asian individuals regardless of their nationality; and,

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

**Be it further resolved,** that the President of LSA SG send the attached statement to United Asian American Organization (UAAO), INDIGO LSA Asian and Asian American faculty Alliance, Asian Pacific Islander Desi/American (APID/A) Community; and,

**Be it further resolved,** that LSA SG condemns hate in all forms on our campus and in our greater communities, and stands by those who have been affected by all forms of identity-based violence.

Appendix A:

## **LSA Student Government Statement Regarding Anti-Asian Hate Crimes**

Fellow University of Michigan Students,

17 March 2021

As the number of anti-Asian hate crimes continues to rise across the United States, we are writing to raise awareness on this issue affecting the Asian community. In spite of efforts by the Asian community to cease and condemn anti-Asian racism,<sup>2</sup> these crimes persist. While hate crimes in the United States are at their highest level since 2020,<sup>3</sup> a lack of media coverage on this exigency makes voices of those hurting in the Asian community feel unheard under the prevailing silence. Therefore, we have to speak out for friends, family, and a large part of our community that we care about who are being affected by this issue. Cases of racism and xenophobia are not justified whether they occur in major cities like Atlanta, New York, or even at the University of Michigan. As LSA Student Government, we encourage our community to raise awareness and report acts of hate crime to prevent their continuity.

Moreover, we should also recognize that these are anti-Asian hate crimes rather than anti-Asian American hate crimes. Not all Asian individuals living in the United States identify as Americans, while being victimized at equal rates. According to the US Census,<sup>4</sup> approximately 5 million of the 19 million Asians in the United States have nationalities other than American, some of whom might not feel represented by the prevalent demographic term “Asian American.” Framing this as anti-Asian American hate crime either misrepresents their national identities, or erases their struggle. This is especially important to our community, where 15 percent of our student body are international. While respecting those who identify as Asian Americans, LSA Student Government adopts a more comprehensive term in public addresses, including all Asian members regardless of their national identities. We aim to support all members of our campus community, and seek to elevate these voices that need to be heard.

Anti-Asian hate crime, and hate crime towards minority communities, continues to rise. Speak out, raise awareness, and be inclusive of all nationalities and ethnicities.

In Solidarity,

LSA Student Government

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<sup>2</sup> The White House. 2021. “Memorandum Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States.”

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. 2020. “Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants; and the Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls.”

<sup>4</sup> United States Census Bureau. 2019. “Sex by Age by Nativity and Citizenship Status (Asian Alone).”