

HOW NYC HAS FOUGHT BACK AGAINST ANTI-ASIAN HATE CRIMES

A Report from the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes
and the Stop AAPI Hate Interagency Working Group

August 2021

INTRODUCTION

The **New York City Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes** (OPHC) functions as part of Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ) as well as the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU). OPHC convenes and coordinates with 20 City agencies and all five District Attorney's offices on hate crimes prevention and responses initiatives. Additionally, OPHC works closely with community-based organizations that serve the populations most vulnerable to hate-based violence. The Office takes a holistic, multi-pronged approach that focuses on education, community relations, and laws/law enforcement, and makes recommendations on City programs and policies.

Agency Partners

- [New York City Commission on Human Rights](#)
- [New York City Emergency Management](#)
- [New York Police Department Hate Crimes Task Force](#) and [Community Affairs Bureau](#)
- [Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health](#)
(FORMERLY THRIVE NYC)
- Mayor's Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity
- [Office of Labor Relations](#)
- [Small Business Services](#)
- All five District Attorney Offices' Hate Crimes Units/Bureaus
- [Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#)
- [Department of Education](#)
- [Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#)
- [Department of Youth and Community Development](#)
- [First Lady of New York City](#)
- [Mayor's Community Affairs Unit](#)
- [Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice](#)
- [Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs](#)

This report highlights the work to-date of the **Stop AAPI Hate Interagency Working Group**, a City interagency collaboration coordinated by OPHC to address the increase in hate crimes and bias incidents against Asian American and Pacific Islander New Yorkers. Launched in April 2020, the Working Group was created in partnership with our agency partners to ensure its resources and programming could achieve the following goals:

- Ensure the safety and well-being of the AAPI community
- Create and widely distribute multi-language resources on how to report incidents and access city services
- Educate New Yorkers, including youth, on the consequences of harmful stereotypes and provide skills to combat biases and harassment
- Provide clear messaging that NYC does not tolerate discrimination and hate.

STOP AAPI HATE

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP

Stop AAPI Hate Interagency Working Group Initiatives

Launched Public Awareness Campaigns

Due to the nature of the pandemic, members of the Working Group focused on creative engagement through largely virtual platforms, including social media and web conferencing. Interagency initiatives expanded the reach and impact of messaging by offering graphics and information in multiple languages and connecting with members of community and ethnic media to share resources and information. Large-scale initiatives included:



ABOVE: GRAPHICS FROM THE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CCHR “I STILL BELIEVE IN OUR CITY” CAMPAIGN

- [Stop COVID Hate: A Toolkit for Addressing Anti-Asian Bias, Discrimination, and Hate](#): The City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR), Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit (CAU), Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), and OPHC partnered to develop this toolkit to provide comprehensive resources and infographics on how to identify, report, and receive support for hate crimes and incidents; educational material for both bystanders and those targeted by hate crimes and bias-motivated incidents; and digital campaigns.
- [I Still Believe in Our City](#): Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, one of CCHR’s Public Artists in Residence, created a series of posters as a testament to the vibrant resilience of New Yorkers that specifically honors AAPI and Black New Yorkers in the face of racial injustice, xenophobia, and COVID-19-related discrimination, harassment, and bias. The campaign received national attention when it was featured on the cover of Time Magazine.
- [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Social Media Toolkit](#): In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, MOIA, CCHR, CAU, OPHC, and others released this

social media toolkit to celebrate our Asian and Pacific Islander New Yorkers and to provide tools to stand up against hate, bias, and discrimination.

- **[Stop Anti-Asian Hate Videos Featuring First Lady Chirlane McCray](#)**: A video featuring First Lady Chirlane McCray and Asian New Yorkers speaking out against anti-Asian hate is available in English with subtitles in nine languages, as well as in a 30-second version for Instagram.

Sponsored and Facilitated Community Events and Educational Programming

From April 2020 to July 2021, City agencies collaborated on over 100 community town hall meetings, rallies, press conferences, roundtables, and workshops, reaching thousands of New Yorkers. Adapting to the needs and requests of communities, these initiatives ranged from in-person borough-based events to virtual forums sending a strong message that NYC does not tolerate hate. Thousands of participants were connected to a wide spectrum of City resources. Examples of targeted programs:

- **[Bystander Intervention Trainings](#)**: CCHR and its community partners co-hosted numerous bystander intervention trainings to provide New Yorkers with the tools and strategies to safely respond when they witness bias incidents and harassment. Trainings were frequently offered in-language and tailored to specific demographics and communities, such as workshops specifically for youth. OPHC sponsored workshops specifically for city employees who were returning to offices in May 2021, as well as provided them with resources on mental health support services and SBS co-sponsored trainings for members of the business community.
- **[Heroes Against Hate](#)**: The Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), in partnership with OPHC, sponsored “Heroes Against Hate” to challenge youth to create a comic book featuring heroes fighting hate across New York City during the COVID-19 crisis. Over 600 youth participated.
- **[Interfaith Dialogue on Confronting Anti-Asian Hate](#)**: Sponsored by the Commission of Religious Leaders in partnership with OPHC and other city agencies, OPHC Executive Director Deborah Lauter moderated a widely viewed program for interfaith leaders that featured Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Reverend A.R. Bernard Sr., Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Reverend Drew Hyun, Imam



ABOVE: The cover of DYCD’s “Heroes Against Hate” comic book project.

Tahir Kukaj, and Reverend Austin Woo on how the faith community can support the AAPI community.



[HeARTwork Against Hate](#), an art contest for New York City youth launched by OPHC in September 2020, provided the opportunity for youth to take a stand against all forms of bias, discrimination, and hate. The winning artwork was displayed throughout the boroughs on LinkNYC digital kiosks. Prizes were provided by the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City.

LEFT: OPHC youth art contest winning entries displayed throughout NYC on digital kiosks.

- [Engaged Small Businesses in the Fight Against Hate](#). SBS joined with other city agency working group members in getting resources on how to combat and respond to hate crimes out to businesses in all the boroughs, including during CCHR's "Stop Asian Hate Day of Visibility" in Hell's Kitchen following an anti-Asian attack. SBS Commissioner Jonel Doris joined CAU Commissioner Roberto Perez with Councilmember Koo in distributing resources in business districts in Queens and SBS also co-sponsored with CCHR a webinar offered in Mandarin for over 50 business owners on how to deescalate tensions in the workplace.



ABOVE: CCHR Commissioner Carmelyn Malalis (front left) leads Stop Asian Hate Day of Visibility in Hell's Kitchen.



ABOVE: THE "SPREAD LOVE: STOP ASIAN HATE" MURAL UNVEILING AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATION, MAY 22, 2021.

First Deputy Mayor Thompson (6th from right) and OPHC Executive Director Lauter (3rd from right), spoke to the hundreds in attendance.

- **[Spread Love: Stop Asian Hate Mural Unveiling and Community Celebration Toolkit:](#)**

In celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and in response to the rapidly increasing rise of anti-Asian violence across the nation, Thrive Collective, the NY Chinese Alliance Church, the NYC Mayor's Office, the City's Taskforce on Racial Inclusion and Equity (TRIE), and City agencies sponsored a community celebration in the Lower East Side with free food, music, performances, healing art, COVID-19 tests and vaccines, and programs for the community, including the unveiling of a beautiful mural promoting unity with the AAPI community.

Invested in Community-Based Anti-Violence Initiatives

New York City recognizes the benefits of investing in community-based anti-violence programs. In May 2021, Mayor de Blasio announced the launch of OPHC's **Partners Against The Hate – PATH FORWARD** initiative with \$3 million in funding to help combat bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes. The *PATH FORWARD* campaign provides funding and programmatic support to six anchor community organizations that serve the populations most vulnerable to hate violence, including the AAPI community. These organizations will distribute funds to other grassroots organizations to carry out specific hate violence programming. In addition to funding the community-based organizations, OPHC will also provide *innovation grants* to groups, individuals, and organizations to incentivize creative and innovative solutions to combat hate crimes.



Representatives of the six OPHC PATH FORWARD anchor organizations: Anti-Violence Project, Arab American Association, Asian American Federation, Hispanic Federation, Jewish Community Relations Council, and the 67th Precinct Clergy Council, joined with CAU Commissioner Roberto Perez (3rd from right) and OPHC Program Manager Eunice Lee, as Mayor de Blasio launched the program at City Hall, May 27, 2021.

Coordinated with Law Enforcement to Monitor and Respond to Incidents and Provided a Bridge of Communications

NYPD Hate Crime Task Force (HCTF) has been working non-stop to investigate every reported hate crime and created the first-of-its-kind Asian Hate Crime Task Force, engaging culturally competent officers with language skills in multi-Asian dialects. Originally drawing on Asian-American officers from other NYPD units, the HCTF now has four dedicated officers working full-time in the Asian HCTF. OPHC worked closely with the HCTF and NYPD Community Affairs bureau and other City agencies on vital outreach efforts to share information, including at precinct and borough-based town hall meetings focused on how to identify and report hate crimes and NYPD's efforts to provide patrols and other neighborhood safety measures.

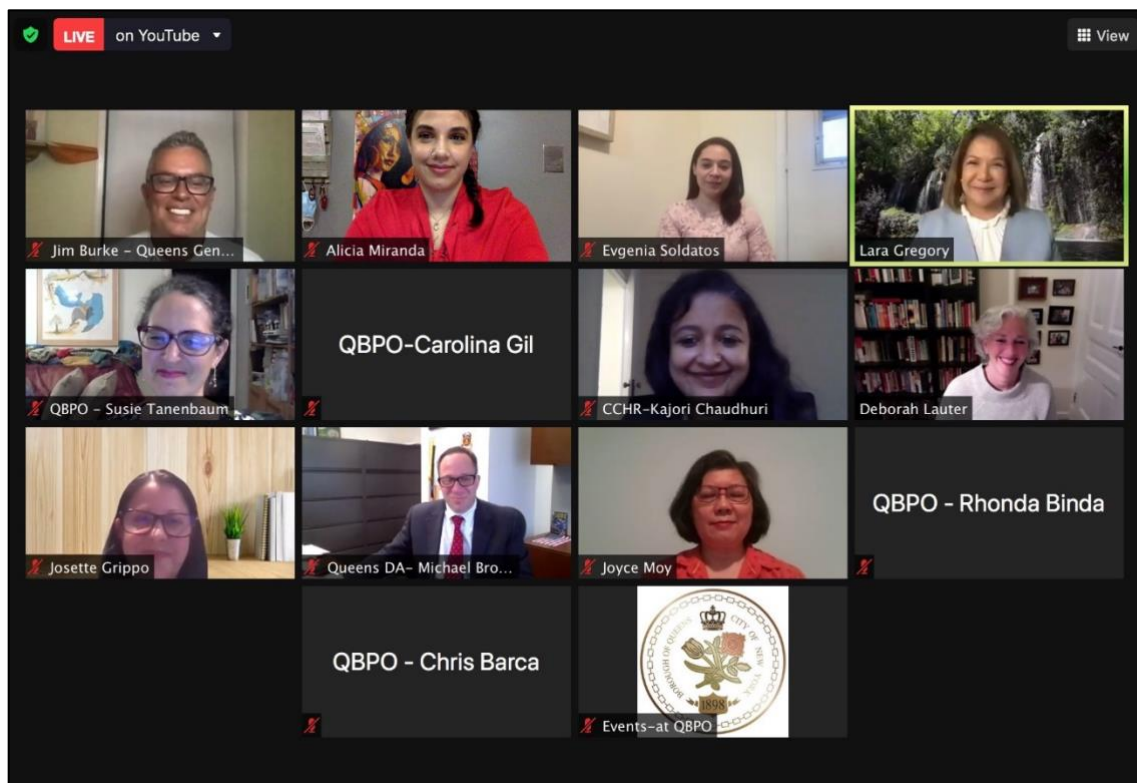
- OPHC created the [OPHC Violent Hate Crime Notification System](#) in March 2020, to alert over 500 legislative and elected officials, community leaders, and community-based organizations whenever the NYPD has determined that a violent hate crime has occurred. Since its inception, OPHC has issued 129 notifications, including 58 anti-Asian incidents.
- OPHC partnered with the Department of City Administrative Services (DCAS) to provide all City building security personnel with information about how to respond to bias incidents and hate crimes as well as flyers to distribute and post.
- On April 29, 2021, the five City DA Offices held a day-long, virtual symposium focused on hate crimes which included four sessions focused on the history of hate crimes, prosecuting hate crimes, immigrant and AAPI concerns, and mental health issues. The instructors were experts in these fields. More than 150 prosecutors and law enforcement members from across New York City, New York State, and the country attended each session. The response was overwhelming positive and there are plans to hold another, similar event in 2022.

Engaged with Community Leaders, Elected Officials, and the Public

Working Group member agencies engaged often with elected officials, community leaders and advocates, particularly U.S. Representative Grace Meng; Assembly members Ron Kim and Yuh-Line Niou; State Senator John Liu; and City Council members Margaret Chin and Peter Koo; and Asian American Federation President Jo-Ann Yoo, who were key and effective leaders in raising the voices and concerns of the AAPI community. Others, such as Representative Nydia Velázquez; Assembly members Edward Braunstein and Rebecca Seawright; City Council members Carlina Rivera, Daniel Dromm, Keith Powers, and Vanessa Gibson; as well as Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, sponsored town hall meetings and conferences, as well as concentrated initiatives in their districts. Consistent meetings and calls provided critical community feedback on interagency efforts and solidified relations between leaders and City

agencies during this crisis period in which the city was confronting both the COVID-19 pandemic and the virus of hate. Virtual communications included:

- Frequent briefings for community leaders, organizations, and city, state, and federal elected officials
- Biweekly check-ins with AAPI community leaders
- Weekly COVID informational community and faith-based leaders calls, coordinated by NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM)



ABOVE: A VIRTUAL HATE CRIMES FORUM HOSTED BY THE QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, MAY 25, 2021 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, NYPD HATE CRIMES TASK FORCE, CCHR, AND OPHC.

Created and Disseminated Educational Resources

Education has been fundamental to interagency efforts. The Working Group developed and released resources and graphics in multiple languages on how to identify hate crimes and bias incidents, their unique impacts on individuals and communities, and methods of reporting and connecting to services.

- **[A Demographic Snapshot of NYC's Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrant Population](#):** In June 2021, in celebration of Immigrant Heritage Month, MOIA released a new analysis of the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) immigrant population residing in New York City. In the snapshot is a testament to the economic contributions of API immigrants and highlights the diversity and demographic characteristics of the City's API community.

- **Anti-Asian Educational Resource Guide and Programs:** OPHC partnered with the Department of Education (DOE) to compile anti-bias and AAPI history resources to encourage educators to initiate discussions with students and provide empowering ways to stand up against hate. DOE Chancellors Carranza and Porter sent out strong messaging to teachers and administrators on the importance of fighting hate and bias to support students. Chancellor Porter met with AAPI leaders to hear and address their concerns. OPHC organized a workshop on the history of AAPI hate in the U.S. for district leaders and other DOE administrators who will share with their education teams throughout the coming year. OPHC is currently working with DOE and NYPD to ensure AAPI students (indeed, all students) feel safe and respected as in-person schooling resumes in September.
- **Hate Crimes Victims' Guide to Help:** The guide explains victims' rights, methods of reporting, and identifies local community-based organizations that offer support. It is currently available in 14 languages.



ABOVE: SOCIAL MEDIA INFOGRAPHICS FROM THE OPHC HATE CRIMES VICTIMS' GUIDE TO HELP.