

Summary of June 2020 APA Justice Conference Call

0. Introduction

- a. [Professor Russell Jeung](#), San Francisco State University; Stop AAPI Hate (<http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/stop-aapi-hate/>); rjeung@sfsu.edu
- b. [Teri Wang](#), Writer and Academic Consultant; teriwang@gmail.com
- c. [Gregg Orton](#), Executive Director, [National Council of Asian Pacific Americans](#)

We warmly welcomed two new speakers – Russell Jeung and Gregg Orton. Teri Wang was not able to attend at the last minute, but she provided a report afterwards. Sarina Neote and John Yang returned to speak on behalf of ASBMB and AAJC respectively.

1. CAPAC updates

- a. NIH and FBI responses to [congressional requests](#) by 03/05?
- b. Other

Krystal Ka'ai planned to join the call and provide updates. However, she was called away by Chair Judy Chu at the last minute. CAPAC has not heard back from the NIH but is working to schedule a call with them. The Oversight Committee has been in conversations with the FBI. CAPAC has been swamped with all things pertaining to COVID-19, including the uptick in hate crimes, but wants to work with all groups to address the Presidential Executive Order issued as well as the Cotton bill. OCA flagged their sign-on letter for CAPAC. Krystal has also been in conversations with Z Huang with C100 and Haipei Shue with UCA and asked them to share their updates.

Haipei Shue, President of United Chinese Americans (UCA), reported on its Food of Love and Tri-community Solidarity event held on May 31. The Food of Love drive was made in partnership with a coalition of communities and organizations nationwide, covering all 50 states and over 100 cities. The tri-community roundtable event featured CAPAC members Bobby Scott and Grace Meng; Derrick Johnson, President and CEO, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; David Harris, CEO, American Jewish Committee; David Bernstein, President and CEO, Jewish Council for Public Affairs; and Helen Zia, Journalist and Activist. A recorded video has been posted in the [Forums and Events](#) webpage.

"Z" Huang, President of the Committee of 100, reported that C100 (1) raised over \$10M collectively and individually for campaign against COVID-19; (2) held a successful conference in Silicon Valley on Chinese Americans in Science and Technology in 2019. C100 is in the process of following up with the various groups from the conference; (3) released a statement on the tragic death of George Floyd.

2. Update on Politicization of NIH Grant

- a. Speaker: Sarina Neote, Science Policy Manager, ASBMB
- [NIH Grant Politicized](#)

The ASBMB sent a letter to NIH Director Francis Collins expressing concerns about the NIH's decision to revoke a grant awarded to EcoHealth Alliance to study bat-borne coronaviruses. The

press release can be found here along with a copy of the letter. The ASBMB also released a statement when the grant was revoked on April 28th, which can be found here.

In addition to concerns about the NIH's decision to revoke EcoHealth Alliance's grant, we have been concerned about efforts to bar Chinese students from receiving research and student visas for graduate studies in STEM. A presidential proclamation was released on May 29th to bar Chinese nationals affiliated with the PRC from receiving J or F visas. The ASBMB statement opposing this policy can be found here. Lastly, legislation was introduced in Congress that would bar the People's Republic of China nationals from receiving student or research visas to the United States for graduate or post-graduate studies in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields. We released a statement urging Congressional members to take a stand against it.

3. Coronavirus (COVID-19)

a. Speaker: Professor Russell Jeung, San Francisco State Professor

What is Stop AAPI Hate? What are the most recent findings? How does the project work in terms of methodology and process? How can the community help?

- [Stop AAPI Hate](#)
- [NBC News hosts town hall on rise of anti-Asian sentiment amid coronavirus pandemic](#)

Russell Jeung reported that Stop AAPI Hate was initiated by the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON) and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) in March 2020. The self-reported incidents are aggregated from 45 states, as well as Washington D.C. Most recent data showed over 1,800 reported hate incidents and crimes against Asian Americans and others due to Covid-19:

- Verbal harassment (69.3%) and shunning (22.4%) make up the highest proportion of cases.
- Civil rights violations, such as workplace discrimination (4.8%); being barred from establishments (2.9%) and being barred from transportation (1.1%) make up 8.8% of the incidents
- Intentional coughing and spitting about 6%
- Race is cited as reason 60% of the time; 18% for wearing masks
- Physical assaults make up 8.1% of the incidents
- Incidents at businesses (42.1%) exceed those in public places (38.9%)
- Women are harassed 2.4 times more than men
- Elderly make up 7.8% of the respondents

Self-reporting is the primary methodology. Use of technology to scrape news articles may cause duplications that create quality issues in reporting.

b. Speaker: Gregg Orton, National Director, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans

National unity

- [Breaking the cycle of discrimination against Asian Americans](#)
- [Stop AAPI Hate](#); [Stand Against Hatred](#); [AAPI Hate Crimes](#); [Wash The Hate](#); [Racism Is Contagious](#); [AAPI Emergency Response Network](#); ...

In an opinion expressed on breaking the cycle of discrimination against Asian Americans, Jeff Yang observed that civil rights advocacy groups are typically short of funding and yet hate incident reporting is an example where there seems to be multiple duplicative efforts. Gregg Orton described the role of the NCAPA as a federation of more than 35 national organizations. In particular, NCAPA has established the Emergency Response Network (ERN) as a collaboration between NCAPA and other non-profit groups with the goal of laying the foundation for a more unified Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) movement.

- c. Future topic – a 2020 national platform for Asian Americans
 - NCAPA: [2020 Policy Platform](#)

NCAPA unveiled its comprehensive 2020 Policy Platform on May 18. The platform, published every four years, aims to provide important context and recommendations to the elected officials, candidates, and the public about important issues impacting the AA and NHPI community. Gregg accepted the invitation to speak about the civil rights portion of the platform in the July 6 APA Justice conference call. Participants are encouraged to read the platform prior to the call.

4. Racial Profiling/Targeting updates

a. Speaker: John Yang, President and Executive Director, AAAJ | Asian American Justice Center

Progress report on “Anti-Racial Profiling” project

- [Know What to Do](#) – Why You Need A Lawyer
- [Asian American Justice Center](#) – “Fighting for civil rights and empowering Asian Americans to create a more just America for all.”

- 05/20 Axios: [The DOJ's China Initiative could be problematic for civil rights](#)
- [Criminalizing China](#): to appear in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, Vol. 111, No. 1, 2020 (73 pages)

John Yang is also Co-Chair of the Executive Committee at NCAPA. He reported on the progress and status of the Anti-Racial Profiling Project – the original concept started by President Designate of Queens College Frank Wu several months ago. John noted that individuals who are accused generally lack adequate representation. AAJC is currently in the process of ramping up the project that would have 3 primary components:

- Training and educational materials and sessions such as Know Your Rights when FBI visits
- Advocacy such as amicus briefs and pushbacks to the Cotton bill
- A Help Desk for intake, triage, and referral to a pool of highly qualified lawyers

More details to come soon.

5. Launch of APA Justice Facebook Group

Teri Wang was not able to join the call, but she provided the following report afterwards: “we will re-launch the existing APA Justice page on Facebook. Our goal is to deepen understanding and awareness of the current social justice landscape for Asian Americans, while also connecting to the shared struggles of other communities. An updated set of guidelines and rules will be finalized in the coming weeks to create focus and facilitate discussion. All are welcome to join or re-engage with the page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/386238778398753/>.”

a. Speaker: Teri Wang, Writer and Academic Consultant

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/386238778398753/>
- Website: <https://www.apajustice.org/>
- LinkedIn ; [Google Group](#)

6. 2020 Census

a. Census Bureau: [National self-response rate](#) as of June 1: 60.4%

Everyone is reminded to complete the 2020 Census immediately if (s)he has not already done so. Please help spread the word and urge your relatives, friends, and colleagues to complete the census too.

7. Catch-up on all developments: www.apajustice.org

- a. [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#)
- b. [Community Responses](#)
- c. [2020 Census Developments](#)
- d. [NIH Grant Politicized](#)

The APA Justice website is continuously updated. Social media in LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12395028/> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/386238778398753/> are also available. Keep up and stay informed.

8. Upcoming Events

a. 07/29-08/01 OCA Summit - Resilient Communities

If you have scheduled events, we can help to broadcast them.

9. Next Call

a. Next Call: 2020/07/06

Email Jeremy Wu at Jeremy.S.Wu@gmail.com or Vincent Wang at wang177@gmail.com to submit agenda items. Thank you.