

RESPONDING TO RACISM

Speaker: Molina Asthana

Email:
info@asianaustalianalliance.net



Almost 65% of respondents identified themselves as being female/women.



Almost 15% of respondents identified themselves as being international students

90%

Almost 90% of respondents states that they did not report their experience of racism to the police.

60%

If we add up the numbers on verbal and physical abuse/threats that accounts for almost 60% of all incidents reports.

Covid 19 Racism Incident Reporting Survey

Key Findings:

- Approximately 60% of respondents reported that their experiences involved racial slurs/name calling – “Go back to China”, “Ching Chong”, “China virus” etc.
- Approximately 22% stated that the perpetrator made the racial slur out as a joke – this was done mostly by acquaintances of the respondent.
- The other top selections were verbal threats at 16%, getting spat and/or sneezed on 13% and physical intimidation 12%.



Covid 19 Racism Incident Reporting Survey

Key Findings (cont.):

- Approximately 37% stated that they experienced the racism on a public street/sidewalk
- 21% stated that they experienced it at a supermarket/grocery store and 13% said they experienced the racism on public transport.
- Over 66% of respondents identified as female, and this correlates with the percentage reported by Stop AAPI Hate which is 67-68%.



Covid 19 Racism Incident Reporting Survey

Key Findings (cont.):

- Over half of the respondents stated that they had some sort of East Asian and going more deeper around 52% stated that they had some sort of Chinese ancestry/background
- 22% stated that they had some sort of SE Asian background, with Vietnamese being the largest group reporting at almost 10%.
- Approximately 15% of respondents identified as international students with the majority saying they come from Mainland China.
- Almost 90% stated that they did not report their experience of racism to the authorities.



Covid 19 Racism Incident Reporting Survey

Recommendations:

- Commonwealth Government to spearhead new National Anti-Racism Strategy to improve community understanding of what constitutes racism
- Police, relevant state anti-discrimination bodies and AHRC to work together to improve data collection on racially motivated incidents and enable nationally consistent data on incidents of racism.
- The creation of a 'one stop shop' to simplify the process of reporting.



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Recommendations (cont.):

- Creation of simple multi-lingual reporting avenues to facilitate reporting of incidents for those for whom English is not a first language. Services to be contextualised to the various CALD community needs e.g. creation of specific 'language offices' which can be the bridge for these communities in accessing government services in general.
- Removal of legislative barriers to prosecution for racially motivated criminal actions and the strengthening of anti-vilification laws
- AHRC to work with organisations such as the Australian Press Council to develop advisory guidelines for removing unconscious bias in reporting on Asia and Asian-Australian communities.



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Recommendations (cont.):

- Social media platforms to make it easier to report and remove trending content that is confirmed as false that may encourage COVID-19 related anti-Asian racism. Individuals who share removed content should be directly informed by platforms that the content was verified as false.
- Better cultural sensitivity training for police and greater investment in multicultural and community liaison work.
- Strengthen the work on promoting human rights among the temporary residents including international students. Reference to Principles to Protect the Human Rights of International Students
- Involvement of multicultural community leaders, civil rights organisations, student bodies and other stakeholders in developing strategies against racial discrimination.



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Next steps

- Finalising a global collaboration report with Stop AAPI Hate USA, Canada, NZ and the UK.
- Report to track our first full year of the survey
- Collaborated with All together Now on a survey on community perceptions of the impact of media racism and the racialization of COVID-19.
- Collaborations have been with leading universities, student groups, government bodies and other civil rights organisations.
- A survey to record racist incidents against South Asians.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6K52MFV>
- AAA is also collaborating with Addis Road Community Centre and former Soccerroo Captain and human rights activist Craig Foster for the Racism Not Welcome project



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Final Comments

- Historical racism is a systemic issue, fuelled sometimes with the media narrative.
- Where we have over 500 reporting into our survey, hundreds more remain unreported.
- The mechanisms in Australia with State anti-discrimination regulators and the Australian Human Rights Commission are mainly “conciliatory” processes which are inadequate.
- Finally, combatting the “bamboo ceiling” and ensuring that leadership is representative of our demographic is important for tackling systemic racism.

