The Coalition Against Hate & Bias

Statement the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act

May 20, 2021

The Coalition Against Hate & Bias applauds the bipartisan efforts of our nation's leaders in condemning hate and violence against Asians during COVID-19. We mourn with those who had loved ones stolen from them. We burn with righteous anger when we see cowardly attacks on our elders. And we stand in solidarity with communities that crave justice, peace, and healing.

However, while the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act puts a welcome emphasis on data collection to better understand hate crimes, it still relies on a law enforcement and justice system that disproportionately punishes black and brown communities with higher arrest rates and harsher sentences. We urge law makers to seek solutions and healing outside the systems that have contributed to underreporting and the carceral state; and we urge them to find those solutions by investing in the communities most affected by racism, colonization, ableism, and xenophobia.

As people of color, we know that most of our experiences will never satisfy the legal definition of a hate crime, but it does no less violence to us and our communities. Violence is done when we are told not to speak our native languages at school or told to go back to where we came from, when we are misgendered, when we are called the r-word, and when there is a refusal to acknowledge that the land we stand on is stolen. Until we address the roots of these pervasive – yet legal – acts of hate and bias, we will never find liberation.

About the Coalition Against Hate & Bias. The Coalition is a community-led initiative to address hate and bias incidents by strengthening and networking communities who experience racist and bigoted treatment and all forms of oppression. Our theory of change is to uplift communities and safety without giving power to the police state. Learn more here: https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/Coalition-Against-Hate-And-Bias.aspx

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