



NATIONAL ECUMENICAL FORUM for FILIPINO CONCERNS - Inland Empire
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SOLIDARITY MESSAGE Stop AAPI Hate

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As a community of faith, we believe that each of us has been created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27); we are to treat each one with mutual respect and dignity. We are, and I quote from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, to *“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”* (Isaiah 1:17 NIV). **Thus**, we are called by our faith:

- to take a stand and condemn xenophobia, misogyny, and all other forms of racism and injustice; and
- to be in solidarity with all peoples from different cultures and from all walks of life, and with all communities advocating justice for all victims of racial violence and discrimination.

NEFFCON-IE joins The Inland Empire Stop AAPI Hate Rally in condemning as many as 3,800 incidents of racism against people like me during this past year (Stop AAPI Hate). We, Asians, and me, personally, as an Asian woman, who have immigrated to this land of the free and the home of the brave over 50 years ago, have been shunned and harassed, blamed, and scapegoated to being physically attacked, and most recently 8 people were murdered of which 6 were women of Asian descent – contributing to the 68% of racial violence directed at women. Do not hate us, Asians, and take advantage of Asian women who have been historically portrayed and stereotyped as a sexual object, submissive and meek.

Over 35 years ago, **"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."** This pledge tells me that the United States of America is for all of us to share and that we live in this land where there is liberty and justice for all. We live in one nation



under God that teaches us to love our neighbors as ourselves. There are no aliens and strangers. We Asians may be different from you, just as you are different from one another. But always remember the Golden Rule in the Gospel of Matthew, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” (Matt. 7:12).

Just like the thousands of migrants and refugees crossing the southern borders, we Asians cross many seas and oceans to immigrate to the United States, emigrating from our Motherland due to poverty, militarization, wars and the promise of a better life for our families; and I quote from the Book of Leviticus, “When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself...” (Leviticus 19:33-34) You must welcome the strangers, including us Asians, and love us as yourselves. This is the way of God’s justice and love in this one nation under God. We thank God that the first immigrants to these shores were welcomed and loved as strangers-brothers-and-sisters by the Native Americans. Isn’t that the reason we celebrate Thanksgiving Day?

Do not hate us Asians. We are angels to you without your knowing it. We have not only enriched you by our labor and our taxes, but also by our faith and culture. If you have not done so, try Chinese peking duck, Korean kimchi, Japanese sashimi, Vietnamese pho, Indonesian goreng, Indian curry and my favorite Filipino lechon and lumpia.

Always remember that we, Asians are patriots too, for democracy and for the country.

Salamat, Kamsahamnida, Cảm ơn, Terima kasih, Gracias and Thank you.

NEFFCON-IE is an organization comprised of people of faith who:

1) Are inspired by the Love of God and service to the people; 2) Understand that faith is seen as a river of life that nurtures legitimate struggles and inter-human relationships; and 3) Believe in the dynamic presence and integration of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the US Church and society in solidarity with the people in the Philippines.