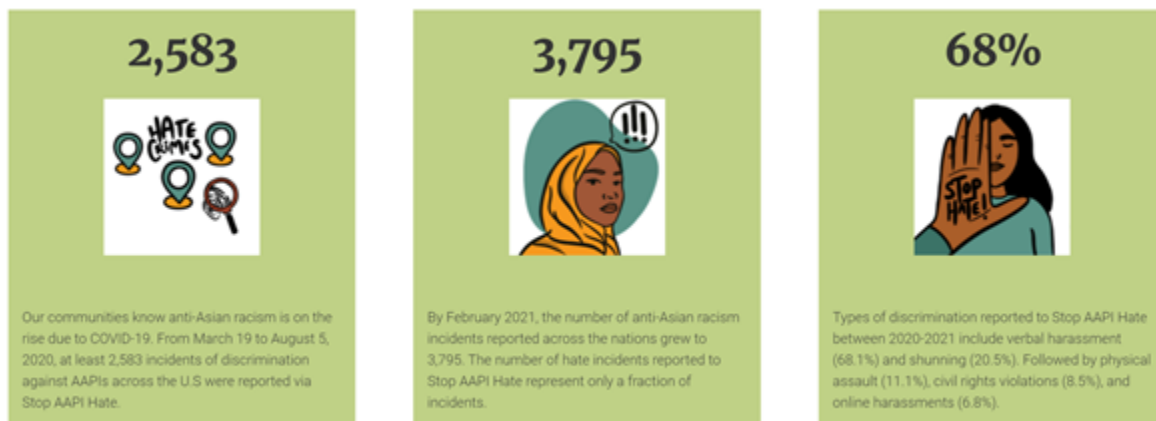


DAY 6: Stand with Asian Americans

*“Americans believe in the reality of ‘race’ as a defined, indubitable feature of the natural world. Racism—the need to ascribe bone-deep features to people and then humiliate, reduce, and destroy them—inevitably follows from this inalterable condition. In this way, racism is rendered as the innocent daughter of Mother Nature, and one is left to deplore the Middle Passage or Trail of Tears the way one deplores an earthquake, a tornado, or any other phenomenon that can be cast as beyond the handiwork of men. **But race is the child of racism, not the father.**”*
- [Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)

[Discrimination against Asian American and Pacific Islander \(AAPI\) communities is unfortunately a longstanding feature of our Country’s history](#), from the Chinese Exclusion Act of the 1890s to government-sanctioned Japanese internment camps in the 1940s. As the coronavirus pandemic escalated, we collectively bore witness to more harassment, discrimination, and even violence directed at these communities. ([Source: Hollaback!](#))



Source: [Movement Hub](#)

The [recent shootings across several Atlanta spas that claimed the lives of eight people, including six Asian American women](#), came on the heels of a staggering increase in hate incidents targeting the AAPI community. Hate incidents, which include both hate crimes and incidents of violence or discrimination, against AAPIs rose sharply over the past year, with over 6,600 reports collected by [Stop AAPI Hate](#) between March 2020 and March 2021. We have curated resources below to expand your knowledge of the AAPI community, and tools to take action against bigotry and hate.

As our first week comes to an end, we hope you have taken the opportunity to look inside yourself and expand your mind through the different challenges offered. As we move into week two, prepare to shift your focus from the personal reflection that we have been exploring to a broader view of racial equity and social justice.

Did You Know? Dr. Melissa May Borja, University of Michigan assistant professor of American Culture, founded [Virulent Hate](#), a project which aims to raise awareness around the surge in anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as document resistance to hate incidents.

Today's Challenge:

OPTION 1: [Read this Concentrate article featuring Washtenaw County women leaders of Asian heritage](#) and their visions for a greater shift towards solidarity, strength, and healing.

OPTION 2: [Read this article from The Conversation, which unpacks the “model minority myth” stereotype of Asians](#) and how it effectively hides many issues, including anti-Asian racism.

OPTION 3: [Complete a free bystander intervention training](#) so that you have the tools to stop anti-Asian/American and xenophobic harassment if you see it happening. Then, [download this related bystander intervention guide](#) from Hollaback!

OPTION 4: [Encourage those who experience or witness acts of hate towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to report an incident through Stop Asian Hate](#). You'll also find safety tips on what to do if encountering or witnessing hate, and many other helpful resources.

OPTION 5: Have questions about the content you are engaging with during the Challenge? Want to connect with others and reflect on our shared experiences? We invite you to opt in to one or more lunch hour discussion groups hosted by [Nonprofit Enterprise at Work](#) and UWWC. [To learn more and RSVP your attendance click here.](#)

Share your reflections on today's topic on social media using the hashtag **#unitedforequity** and tag **@uwwashtenaw**.