



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

Dear Hostos Community,

The past few days have brought to light concerning and increasing amount of bias, hate and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities. Throughout this year, Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders have been blamed for the pandemic—slander born of xenophobia and ignorance. Our friends and colleagues have had insults and racial slurs thrown at them.

I write to speak out against anti-Asian hate, and to support our AAPI community; I strongly condemn these actions. The AAPI community has historically been the target of hate and discrimination, from the Chinese Exclusion Act, to the internment of Japanese Americans, to the Muslim ban, this community has faced hate and violence. There are currently numerous accounts of Asian faculty and students at CUNY who fear going out in public. Students have spoken about verbal abuse, being spit on, and threatened physically. This must stop.

Hostos must continue to welcome and embrace individuals from every background because it makes us a better community, a stronger community. An attack on any group of us is an attack on all of us—and on everything we represent as a college.

As always, if you or someone you know has experienced a racist attack, please contact the Hostos Public Safety Department <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Administrative-Offices/Public-Safety-Department>. You may also share concerns by submitting complaints to the Office of Compliance and Diversity at <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Administrative-Offices/Office-of-Compliance-and-Diversity/Online-Complaint-Form>.

It is essential that we all feel safe in the Hostos Community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
Interim President

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