



**News Release**  
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## **Massachusetts Advisory Committee Releases Report on Hate Crimes Against Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Massachusetts**

Washington, DC – The Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights released a [report](#) on anti-Asian racism in the Commonwealth and the rise in attacks on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) during and prior to the pandemic. The report, “Hate Crimes Against Asian American Pacific Islander Communities in Massachusetts,” concluded that anti-AAPI violence today continues nearly two centuries of bigotry and marginalization, reflecting historic efforts “to eliminate Asian-Americans as part of the [US] American family.”

David Harris, chair of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee said, “The Advisory Committee has been concerned about the racism that infects our Commonwealth and felt the need to document its heightened manifestation against the AAPI community during the pandemic. Although the committee was disturbed by its findings, it was also encouraged by the multi-faceted efforts by members of the community, advocates, and researchers to combat this scourge.”

Among the Committee’s recommendations:

- Institute community-based restorative justice programs as alternatives to enhanced policing, prosecutions, and punishments of alleged hate crimes.
- Expand opportunities for victims of violence to report their attacks anonymously in their own language or the language of their communities.
- Integrate ethnic studies in the K-12 social studies and history curriculum frameworks.
- Greatly expand interpretative capabilities to limit, if not eliminate, linguistic barriers to social services and the justice system; pass the Language Access and Inclusion bill.

According to Harris, “The events of the past few years, and the even longer history of anti-AAPI harassment and violence, make clear we need to be more aggressive and innovative in targeting the root causes of bigotry and creating safe communities across the Commonwealth. The committee is hopeful that the recommended actions will set the Commonwealth on the path to full membership and participation by the AAPI community.”

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights was established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Its 56 Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. For information about the Commission, please visit [www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*