Max Richtman, Chair

March 3, 2021

LCAO CONDEMNS CONTINUED HATE CRIMES AGAINST AAPI OLDER ADULTS

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) – a coalition representing 69 national organizations working to preserve and strengthen the well-being of older Americans - condemns hate crimes and acts of violence, racism, and ageism targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) older adults. LCAO stands with the AAPI community and urges immediate action to ensure both clear and accessible means of reporting these attacks and systemic solutions aimed at confronting anti-AAPI bias.

"Acts of violence, including hate crimes, can profoundly impact older adults and the ability of all adults to age in good health, as evidenced by research showing that violence can spur a range of negative physical and mental health outcomes, including premature death. That's why elected officials and law enforcement must take immediate steps to stop current hate crime threats targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander older adults," said Max Richtman, LCAO Chair.

LCAO urges the Administration, federal, state, and local elected officials and appropriate institutions to take swift and direct action against hate crimes and acts of discrimination against AAPI older adults. Attention is required to address anti-AAPI rhetoric and bias exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has fueled an acceleration in outrageous acts of violence targeted at members of the older community, in particular. These acts of violence highlight the intersectional experience of AAPI older adults who are targeted both because of their racial identity and their age.

LCAO remains committed to fostering racial justice for AAPI older adults and future generations so that all people in this country can live and age in community with safety, health, and dignity. Further, we acknowledge the responsibility of each of us to not tolerate race- and ethnicity- motivated attacks, particularly on older adults.