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A3PCON

ASIAN PACIFIC POLICY & PLANNING COUNCIL

Dear A3PCON Members,

One week ago, thousands of white supremacists stormed the U.S. Capitol while Congress was in session. Encouraged by President Trump, the seditionists carried out a violent attack, physically assaulting Capitol police officers, destroying property and threatening members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to prevent lawmakers from certifying the election of Joe Biden as the 46th U.S. President. These individuals hailed from across the country, from the legal, business and tech community; many were former members of the armed services or law enforcement, rich, poor and middle class. What they had in common was a shared belief in the lies told not only by the Trump Administration, but by many members of the Republican Party and the moral and financial support of countless conservative organizations, as well as mainstream companies. And they champion whiteness and white Americans over all others, branding the rest of us with subordinate status and conditional citizenship, which may be revoked at any time.



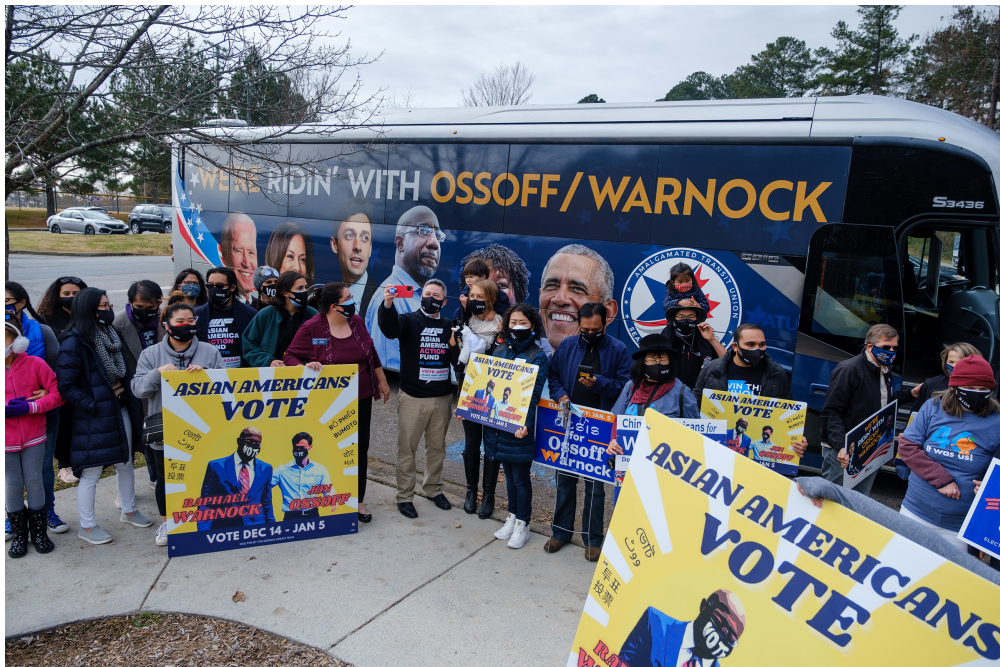
I am not here to tell you that this is not who we are or that we are better than this. Neither is true and both can be countered by a few examples of American history. A

country that lynched 6,500 African Americans, incarcerated over 100,000 Japanese Americans and deported approximately 300,000 Mexican Americans should never

be allowed to utter those words. I also am not one who believes in American exceptionalism. The almost 400,000 COVID-19 deaths (and counting) --- more than any other nation - have certainly debunked that myth.



What I do want to share is that A3PCON is working to counter the worst instincts and actions America has wrought. This means fighting white supremacist policies ending DACA and implementing public charge and documenting the anti-Asian American discrimination through Stop AAPI Hate. And working to provide the most up-to-date information on COVID in over a dozen Asian American and Pacific Islander languages and ensuring equity in the provision of the vaccine in Los Angeles County. It also means helping every AAPI to vote and become informed about policies impacting their families and communities and engaged with their local governments for progressive social change.



realized, but one on the horizon. We are a country living out a 400-year-old gestation, still waiting to give birth to the ideals of true liberty, justice and equality. But as, Langton Hughes said in the poem "Let America Be America Again"

Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.

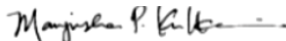
(America never was America to me.)

Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.

(It never was America to me.)

<https://poets.org/poem/let-america-be-america-again>

We are one week away from the inauguration of the next president. But, we cannot rest. We must continue to fight hard. Given the events of the past week (and those of the past 227 years), it is not hyperbole to say that American democracy is under threat. We need all of you to help us fight for it. Become an A3PCON member, donate, volunteer, participate in one of our community campaigns. It is only with the help and support of each and every one of you that we can achieve the ideals and reach the aspirations to form a free and just nation. Let 2021 be the year you join us.



Manju Kulkarni
Executive Director

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The Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON) is a coalition of community-based organizations that advocates for the rights and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the greater Los Angeles area with particular focus on low income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged sectors of the population. We set up this mailing list to keep you updated on API related issues. This includes community announcements, key news items, resources, and training. We will send you no more than 5 messages a month.

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