



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2021**

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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK PUBLISHES KNOW YOUR RIGHTS BROCHURE TO COMBAT HATE CRIMES AND BIAS INCIDENTS AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK -- May 19, 2021. In light of the current surge in anti-Asian hate and violence, the Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY) is proud to announce the publication of a Know-Your-Rights brochure created to inform members of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in New York about their legal rights when experiencing a bias incident or hate crime. The brochures are available online in English and Chinese.

The brochure explains what a hate crime is under the New York State hate crime statute and differentiates between a hate crime and a bias incident. The brochure also provides guidance to individuals on what actions to take during and after an incident, including making a sound or video recording, noting the perpetrator's physical appearance and clothing, and collecting bystander witness contact information. The brochure outlines procedures for pursuing action through the criminal justice system or civil lawsuits and provides information on reporting incidents.

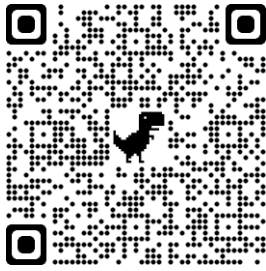
Additional translations of the brochure into other Asian languages are expected to be released shortly. AABANY encourages the AAPI community and allies to share and distribute the brochures to anyone who may benefit from its contents.

"AABANY has long fought against anti-Asian racism, discrimination and xenophobia, even before the current national crisis," states AABANY President Terrence Shen. "During this time of elevated hate and violence against members of the AAPI community, AABANY has continued to serve as a resource to those affected, offering interpretation and translation services, legal information and referral services, and other forms of assistance. This brochure represents our latest effort to provide AAPI community members in New York with another tool to respond to anti-Asian incidents or attacks."

Links and QR codes to the brochure are given here:

English:

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aabany.org/resource/resmgr/2021aav/KnowYourRights_Online_0513.pdf



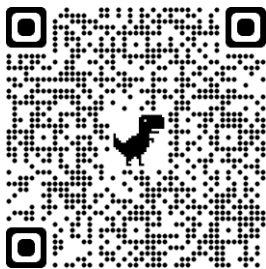
Chinese (simplified):

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aabany.org/resource/resmgr/2021aav/KnowYourRights_Online_Signage.pdf



Chinese (traditional):

https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.aabany.org/resource/resmgr/2021aav/KnowYourRights_Online_Signage_TradCh.pdf



On Saturday May 22, 2021, from 12pm to 3pm, AABANY's Pro Bono & Community Service Committee will be distributing the brochures as a part of a community event being held to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. The event will feature the unveiling of a "Spread Love: Stop Asian Hate" mural at 160 Eldridge Street in Manhattan's Chinatown. The mural's unveiling and community celebration will be co-hosted by Thrive Collective, the New York Chinese Alliance Church, the New York City Mayor's Office and several City agencies. AABANY invites everyone to attend the event and show their support for the AAPI community. Further information about the event may be found at www.3stone.org/mural.

For any questions about the Know Your Rights brochures, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653- 2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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Additional information about AABANY is available at www.aabany.org

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