

Proposed Resolution 204a

Resolution on Condemning API Racism and Xenophobia during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

Whereas over two million APIs in the United States and Canada work in healthcare, transportation, and service industries and a large majority are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas API workers are trying to survive a global pandemic while working without proper personal protective equipment and are being subjected to racism, bigotry and xenophobia;

Whereas candidates and elected officials have used rhetoric in their public statements around the coronavirus pandemic continuing the historic discrimination against APIs leading to an alarming, rising trend of attacks as COVID-19 spreads;

Whereas working-class immigrants and communities of color are often scapegoated during public health crises or in wartime;

Whereas this virus does not discriminate based on type of work, race, or immigration status;

Whereas patients need masks, tests, ventilators, hospital beds, and frontline workers need workplace safety protections, hazard pay, paid sick days, health care regardless of employer size or industry;

Whereas communities do not need more corporate bailouts when the most vulnerable populations, including many immigrants, are excluded from government relief programs; and

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Union to denounce any form of racism and xenophobia, uplift the contribution of API workers in our community, and to show how allies can stand in solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU):

1. denounces and condemns any and all forms of racism and discrimination;
2. highlights and uplifts the heroic efforts of API members fighting this pandemic on the frontline;
3. tracks incidents and trends of anti-Asian attacks and holds accountable the current administration, elected officials and all candidates along with their allies for racist rhetoric;

4. works with union leaders, candidates, elected officials, and allies to integrate into all opportunities to denounce the anti-Asian attacks in our communities during the pandemic and beyond;
5. provides resources to help prevent the spread of misinformation;
6. will develop a union-wide strategy which includes collecting and tracking data among SEIU's API membership to further inform necessary actions to combat the rising attacks on the API community; and
7. will develop a national strategy to mobilize voters among SEIU's API membership to get out the vote in key states to replace the current president and a number of elected and government officials who have fueled these hateful sentiments by using COVID-19 as an excuse for racism.