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# Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders experience added danger of anti-Asian racism

## Area activists respond to the nationwide increase of racial bias reports

Clara Neupert ([https://blugoldmedia.org/staff\\_profile/clara-neupert/](https://blugoldmedia.org/staff_profile/clara-neupert/)) May 12, 2020

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Snarky comments in the workplace. Racial slurs hurled on a university campus. An explicit social media post. Physical assault.

All of these acts of racial violence were targeted at Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders and are related to the novel coronavirus.

Three of these incidents were filed with the 1,497 other bias reports ([http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/STOP\\_AAPI\\_HATE\\_MONTHLY\\_REPORT\\_4\\_23\\_20.pdf](http://www.asianpacificpolicyandplanningcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/STOP_AAPI_HATE_MONTHLY_REPORT_4_23_20.pdf)) collected by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, a nationwide organization, within the past month.

One of the bias reports about racial slurs, was filed on UW-Eau Claire's campus last month.

The COVID-19 pandemic can be stressful (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily->



Sia Her responds to a question from Margaret Jensen, the moderator. The panel was held virtually, and 24 people attended the live event.

(<https://www.facebook.com/blugoldmedia.org/4845/inside-eau-claire/2F4845%2Finside-eau-claire/2Fasian-americans-and-pacific-islanders-experience-added-danger-of-anti-asian-racism%2F>)

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More stories from Clara Neupert

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MAY 19, 2019

life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html) for anyone, but API experience the additional danger of anti-Asian racism.

During a virtual panel (<https://www.uwec.edu/equity-diversity-inclusion/edi-services-programs/multicultural-affairs/programs/>) at the end of April, API activists said the new coronavirus should be the common enemy, not a group of people. The panel was orchestrated by UW-Eau Claire's Office of Multicultural Affairs.

"During COVID-19, we all have one goal, and that is to survive the virus," panelist Sia Her said.

Her is the executive director of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. She was joined by Mai Xiong and Pa Thao. Xiong on the Eau Claire City Council and is the founder and president of the Hmong American Leadership. Thao is the executive director of the Black and Brown Womyn Power Coalition in Eau Claire and the former executive director of the Eau Claire Area Hmong Mutual Assistance Association.

Each of the panelists described how anti-Asian racism impacts them. Her said she feels "heartbroken" when she has to tell members of the API community to take extra precautions during their daily walks or trips to the grocery store.

"Going grocery shopping in the state of Minnesota should not be something that goes hand-in-glove with fear for one's own physical safety," Her said.

Recent acts of racial violence reveal the systematic oppression that API continually experience in the United States, panelists said.

Xiong encouraged members of the API community to reach out to each other when in need. She said she tells her family and friends to never leave home alone. When faced with a racist remark, Xiong said one should prioritize personal safety then correct misinformation.

Xiong urged non-Asian allies to engage in candid conversations about race.

“At the end of the day,” Xiong said. “I think we all want the same thing — we all just want better.”

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**UW-Eau Claire class brings museum exhibit to Selma, Alabama**  
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During the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's 10th annual Civil Rights Pilgrimage trip, Jan Larson and students in her Immersion Journalism class sh...

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### COVID-19 shuts down Wisconsin sports

(<https://blugoldmedia.org/4881/news/covid-19-sports-and-covid-19/>)

The world as people know it came to a screeching halt due to COVID-19, and the sports world has been no exception. The cancellations of spring sport s...

### Hearing loss complicates taking online classes

(<https://blugoldmedia.org/4822/cj-322/hearing-loss-during-covid-19/>)

As a student who has used a sign language interpreter her entire schooling career, I never expected that I would have to pass an entire semester of cl...

### The City of Eau Claire denounces President Trump's deportation

(<https://blugoldmedia.org/4826/cj-city-of-eau-claire-denounces-president-trumps-deportation-proposal/>)

Eau Claire, Wisconsin has a population of 69,000. Four percent of that population is Asian. On March 9, 2020, the Eau Claire City Council held a mee...



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### Energy assistance expanded for Wisconsin families

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