



EMBRACE: APRIL FACILITATOR GUIDE

DESCRIPTION

Welcome! For the month of April we have decided to focus on a very important, and timely, topic and issue we face both in the United States and around the world. Alpha Epsilon Phi condemns any and all hate crimes targeted towards the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. In response to the growing hate speech and violence towards the AAPI community, we have decided it is important for us to address anti-Asian racism and xenophobia. The purpose of this month's program is to provide resources and facilitator questions to create constructive and important conversations.

Throughout the facilitator guide you will find guided conversations and links to other resources you may use with members. This programming is meant to be open to all members of Alpha Epsilon Phi. These resources will allow your chapter to have open and honest conversations, while continuing to build upon the trust shared between you. We encourage you to share these resources with the entire chapter so that others may also participate. The purpose of the activities included in our monthly programming are to reinforce the information covered while engaging in an activity that allows for open communication, reinforcement of the educational materials, and an opportunity to work with your sisters.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your programming specialist; they will be able to provide additional assistance and answer your questions.

We encourage you to engage with one another in honest dialogue, enriching your sisterhood while continually exemplifying the high ideals and moral character that makes you uniquely members of Alpha Epsilon Phi.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Participants will...

- Define xenophobia
- Identify ways to be an ally to fight anti-Asian racism and xenophobia
- Review a brief history of American xenophobia

RESOURCES

- **TedEd Talk and Facilitator Questions**
 - [“Other”: A brief history of American xenophobia](#)
 - [Supplementary Timeline of American xenophobia](#)
 - Facilitator questions **in the guide below*
- **Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism Discussion**
 - Anti-Asian racism hate crime statistics for 2020-2021
 - [The long history of Anti-Asian hate in America explained](#)
 - [FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Additional Actions to Respond to Anti-Asian Violence, Xenophobia and Bias](#)
 - [Stop AAPI Hate](#) - national report
 - Facilitator questions **in the guide below*
- **Additional Resources for April**
 - [Asian Americans Talk About Racism, and We Listen](#), Still Processing Podcast
 - [Screams and Silence](#), Code Switch Podcast
 - [Self Evident: Asian American's Stories](#)

- [#AsianAmCovidStories](#)

PREPARATION

- Schedule a time to hold April programming
- Read through the facilitator guide in advance
- Email articles for chapter members to read prior to discussion:
 - The long history of Anti-Asian hate in America, Explained
 - FACT SHEET: President Biden Announces Additional Actions to Respond to Anti-Asian Violence, Xenophobia and Bias
 - Stop AAPI Hate National Report

FACILITATORS

- Any of the following officers/chairs can facilitate this programming:
 - VP-Programming
 - DEI Chair
 - Jewish Heritage Chair
- Additional officers or chapter members – provide opportunities to keep members engaged

HOW TO USE THIS FACILITATOR GUIDE

- Text formatted in standard font is identified as a “talking point” and is intended to be read aloud by the facilitator.
- Text formatted in *italics* is intended as a note for the facilitator; italicized text is not meant to be read aloud.
- Text formatted in **bold** denotes a series of questions to engage participants in a dialogue.

FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The purpose of this section is to give you reminders to make your EMBRACE meetings cohesive and to ensure that members are connecting with one another. Some members may be further along in their understanding of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging work; others may not be as comfortable to share. Remind everyone that this is a safe space and encourage everyone to participate openly and honestly. Below are some questions to ask.</i>• Welcome everyone!• <i>Send an agenda to the members prior to let them know what you are going to cover.</i>• Check in on how each member is doing – this programming is designed to provide a safe space for discussion.• Encourage members to continue DEI&B conversations outside of structure EMBRACE programming.• <i>Make sure to leave time at the end of the meeting to allow for members to ask any questions.</i>
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“Other”: A Brief History of American Xenophobia

FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- Screen Share the [TedEd talk](#), make sure to have your volume on.
- We are going to watch a TedEd talk, “Other”: A brief history of American xenophobia. The United States often touts itself as a “nation of immigrants,” but this obscures the real story: Our country was built by enslaved Africans and exploited immigrants on stolen indigenous land, which has left deep scars that we have yet to heal. This TedEd talk explores how these dark truths of American history are interconnected, and how we can work together to confront the past and build a more just and equitable future.
- Following this short video we are going to discuss America’s history of xenophobia, specifically focusing on anti-Asian history within the United States.

- **What does xenophobia mean?**
 - Allow for members to share what they think this means.
 - Fear of strangers, from the Greek word for “foreigners.”
- **How familiar were you with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882?**
 - Allow for members to share their thoughts.
 - This was the first federal law that singled out an immigrant group for exclusion based on race.
 - This act placed a 10-year moratorium on all Chinese migration.
- **When was the first time you remember seeing some form of xenophobia?**
 - There is no right answer here. Allow for members to share their experiences. Mention Islamophobia following 9/11.
- The United States has a long history of xenophobia, following September 11th we experienced an increase in Islamophobia. During World War II, following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, there was an increase in anti-Asian racism, resulting in the Japanese internment camps for Japanese Americans.
- Share the [Xenophobia Supplementary Timeline](#) with the chapter, discuss a broad overview of the history of American xenophobia and racism from 1492 - 2017.
- **How do you think xenophobia and racism are related?**
 - Allow for members to share their thoughts
- **Have you ever felt discrimination for your race or ethnicity?**
 - Allow for members to share their thoughts.
 - For those who are white, or white passing, and for many Jewish Americans, we do not know what it feels like to be discriminated against due to our race or physical appearance.
- **How many of you learned about the Japanese internment camps in primary school (middle school/high school)?**
 - Allow members to share their experiences.
 - Executive Order 9066 was signed on February 19, 1942 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to incarcerate people under suspicion as enemies.
 - This order also affected German and Italian Americans on the East Coast, however the vast majority of those incarcerated in 1942 were of Japanese descent, especially in California.
 - Many of them were naturalized citizens, second and third

generation Americans.

- The prevailing narrative in the United States, is that Asian Americans are the model minority.
 - This concept was developed during and after World War II, that Asian Americans are the ideal immigrants of color to the United States due to their economic success.
 - However, in the United States, Asian Americans have long been considered a threat to a nation that promoted a whites-only immigration policy. They were called a “yellow peril”: unclean and unfit for citizenship in America.
 - As you saw in the timeline of xenophobia in the United States, from the Chinese Exclusion Act, to the Executive Order 9066 which resulted in the internment camps, incarcerating people under suspicion as enemies, to the everyday racism which has increased since the outbreak of Covid-19.
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Xenophobia and Anti-Asian Racism Discussion

FACILITATOR TALKING POINTS

- Since the coronavirus pandemic, violent attacks and harassment toward Asian Americans have spiked.
- According to Stop AAPI Hate, an organization that's been tracking these reports, over 3,795 incidents have been reported between March 19th, 2020 to February 28, 2021. The number of hate incidents reported is only a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur.
- These incidents include everything from getting shunned at work to physical assaults, to the shooting and deaths of 8 people in Atlanta, 6 of the women were of Asian descent.
- These hate crimes have been fueled by racist rhetoric.
- The current xenophobia is built on deeply rooted racism toward Asian Americans.
- As we discussed earlier, racism toward Asian Americans goes back a long time.
- **What are some things that stood out to you when you were reading the Vox article?**
 - *Allow for members to share their thoughts.*
- **What are some things you didn't know?**
- **How can we work together to combat anti-Asian racism and xenophobia?**
- **Why is it important for us to discuss this?**
- Although racism toward Asian Americans has persisted for generations, it's rarely explicitly confronted or talked about. "Asian discrimination tends to be overlooked and widely tolerated, even among educated classes," University of Pennsylvania English professor Josephin Park told Penn today.
- Hate crimes against Asian Americans in 16 cities rose by 150 percent in 2020.

- **What do you think is behind the rise in anti-Asian attacks?**
- **What do you think our past tells us about the fight to be seen and to feel safe?**
- **What did you take away from President Joe Biden's statements?**
- **What are some ways we can build awareness?**
- **What ways can we combat racism and xenophobia?**