



Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Advocating for Equity and Diversity throughout Oregon

Press Release

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## STATEMENT ON MONTEREY PARK & HALF MOON BAY MASS SHOOTING

*Oregon* - Lunar New Year is celebrated as a time to say good-bye to the previous year while welcoming the new year with joy. A celebratory event meant for the community has been marred by two recent shootings within the Asian community in California. The deaths and injuries of twenty victims of the [January 21st mass shooting](#) in Monterey Park, California and the [January 23rd mass shooting](#) in Half Moon Bay, California remind us once again that gun violence affects everyone. No one is immune.

The Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA) leadership is shocked and horrified by the ongoing violence perpetuating within our communities. Our condolences to the families, friends, and communities who continue to be harmed, who must grieve, and continue to live with senseless violence.

Yet, sending [thoughts and prayers is not the answer](#). Those actions have not and will not bring a response to the ongoing deaths and injuries from senseless gun violence. The recent shootings continue to reflect the reality of [living in America](#), where uncontrolled access to weapons of warfare continues to result in numerous [gun-related injuries and deaths](#) for communities of all ages. No person should be fearful of losing their lives or the lives of loved ones due to gun violence when we can take direct action to stop it.


As we advocate for and push for healing and wellness, the reality is that we must stand together in solidarity with other communities to end gun violence. It's imperative that we call on our legislators to enact gun-safety legislation. Call on the media to shine a light on BIPOC communities that are disproportionately harmed. We must invest in Asian, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and Micronesian organizations engaged in cultural and language violence prevention programs. Supporting our communities and respecting cultural differences, providing proper language specific resources, and culturally specific mental health support programs – to prevent and to heal from these types of unthinkable tragedies – are essential.

We grieve with the unbearable and senseless loss of lives within the communities. OCAPIA asks that our communities be supportive, caring, kind, and watch out for one another.

Here are suggested resources:

- Asian Health & Service Center

<https://www.oregonadvocacy.org/> 

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PO Box 17550, Portland, OR 97217 

[Asian Health & Service Center](#)

- National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
[NAAPIMHA](#)
- Anxiety and Depression Association of America  
[Find Help with ADA](#)
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline  
[988 Hotline](#)
- AAPI Language Resource Library  
[AAPI In-Language Resource Library](#)



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