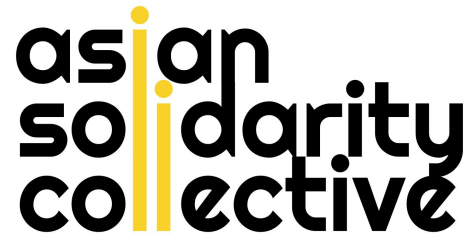


## MEDIA ADVISORY

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### San Diego, CA, April 30, 2020 - ASIAN SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE REJECTS SAN DIEGO DISTRICT ATTORNEY, SUMMER STEPHAN'S HATE CRIME HOTLINE.

Asian Solidarity Collective challenges and pushes back against DA Summer Stephan's hate crime hotline as she has been known to utilize the criminal justice system as a weapon against Black, Brown and Asian communities by forcing them into prison for petty crimes. Asian Solidarity Collective refuses to have any association with a hate crimes hotline that is tied with Summer Stephan whose campaign was funded by a PAC - political action committees affiliated with law enforcement during her 2018 run for District Attorney<sup>1</sup>.

"How can we trust a DA who has been known to target and over-police Black people we are in community and solidarity with?" says DJ Kuttin Kandi, Core member and Organizer with Asian Solidarity Collective. "We ask that Asian communities who are experiencing coronavirus-related anti-Asian racism, to use the national anti-asian hate reporting website launched by the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council last month to report any acts of harassment and violence, rather than the hate crimes hotline initiated by DA Summer Stephans."

Asian Solidarity Collective released a full statement on their response to the District Attorney Summer Stephan's hate crime hotline:

*We, Asian Solidarity Collective, cannot stand by a hate crimes hotline that is in the hands of a DA who may use the information that is called into their offices to further criminalize communities of color throughout San Diego. Instead we call upon all elected officials to denounce racism, xenophobia and all forms of oppression, and to protect vulnerable communities by following the communities' lead, especially in this time of COVID-19. We hope that the DA's office will be reflective on how they treat other communities with criminality, marginalization and silencing. We also ask all community organizations and individuals to work*

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<sup>1</sup> Castellano, Jill. "Inewssource Campaign Finance Data For San Diego County Races." KPBS Public Media. KPBS, August 9, 2018.

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2018/aug/09/inewssource-campaign-finance-data-san-diego-county/>  
Rivlin-Nadler, Max, Steven Hale, Ethan Corey, Ronal Serpas, Taryn Merkl, Aya Gruber, and Benjamin Levin. "San Diego DA Says She Won't Take Law Enforcement Donations - But They're Still Fueling Her Campaign." The Appeal, May 11, 2018.

<https://theappeal.org/san-diego-da-says-she-wont-take-law-enforcement-donations-but-they-re-still-fuelin-g-her-campaign-9837ebe208a4/>.

*together to create alternative models of safety and security, and shape a culture of accountability within our communities.*

*We, as Asian Solidarity Collective, are dedicated to serving our Asian American communities in San Diego, who are not a monolith but consist of many Asian ethnicities. Our mission is to activate Asian American social justice consciousness, identify intersectional affiliations, condemn anti-Blackness, and build Asian solidarity with Black folks and other communities of color.*

*Asians have been scapegoated by the Trump administration who is continuing to use racist dog-whistles to absolve themselves from the inhumane atrocity they have committed by not acting responsibly in protecting the American people from this pandemic. The usage of anti-Asian racism terms such as the “Chinese Virus” by Trump and his administration has fueled violence against Asians across the country and globally. At the same time, we are bearing witness to an increase of coronavirus related anti-Asian racism and xenophobia; it is in this moment that we must recognize the system that continues to divide us from other communities of color. It is also in this period that we must understand the ways in which prominent white leaders have historically pitted communities of color against one another. Many white people have used the model minority myth, Asian Americans, and their perceived success as a racial wedge between Asian and Black communities. It is imperative, now, more than ever, that we as Asian Americans stay committed to cross racial-solidarity and intersectional building by continuing to challenge and address the criminalization of Black, Brown, Indigenous and all communities of color.*

*We hope to address the continuous violent acts towards the Asian American community and other communities of color. We understand that various organizations and individuals are trying to take it upon themselves to address these injustices that are happening but we also raise the concern that these actions, although may be presented as liberatory might be also oppressing other communities. We support and advocate for critical consciousness endeavors that would uplift and defend the most marginalized communities in our city. We hope to work with individuals and organizations who are aligned with our mission and vision as an organization that truly addresses the intersectional and intercommunities struggles that are happening in San Diego and around the country. We invite these individuals and organizations who truly want to address these injustices to be in dialogue about what liberation can really look like.*