

Cultural Awareness Bulletin

Brought to you by the Committee for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging
Issue: April 2021

Short on time? Read this page in less than 2 minutes! Interested in learning more? Links to each brief article are provided below.

How a 'Sesame Street' Muppet Became Embroiled in a Controversy Over Autism

Source: Lindsey Bever (Columnist with the Washington Post)

The Autism Society held the first National Autism Awareness month in April 1970. However, this and other organizations have received criticism from many autism advocates.

"We are a generation that has experienced the harms of having autism policy research and services being something about us, without us, and we have sought to take our rightful place in the national conversation on autism with the goal of ensuring future generations will not have to go through what we had to go through," said Ne'eman, who served as one of President Barack Obama's appointees to the National Council on Disability.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2019/09/19/how-sesame-street-muppet-became-embroiled-controversy-over-autism/>

How Asian American Leaders Say the Biden Administration Can Address Hate

Source: Juana Summers (Columnist with NPR)

According to Stop AAPI Hate, roughly 3,800 hate crimes against Asian Americans have been reported from March 2020 to April 2021.

"Jo-Ann Yoo, the executive director of the Asian American Federation, said it's also important that victims or witnesses of crimes receive culturally competent assistance in navigating the legal system.

"Some Asian elders, for instance, may not understand how a question is framed or the way law enforcement might ask a question. How we reach out needs to be done very differently," Yoo said. "It's not what we see on *Law and Order*. It needs to be very, very nuanced, so we need to have people working in DOJ who look like us, who speak our language, who understand the culture to be able to engage with all of those tools."

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/20/979356675/how-asian-american-leaders-say-the-biden-administration-can-address-hate>

Oklahoma Bill Makes it Illegal to Photo or Film Police, Dems Vote Yes

Source: Dean Osborne (Associate Editor with the Black Wall Street Times)

"While police and law enforcement officers like everyone have a reasonable expectation of privacy at their job, legislation like this isn't about privacy. It's about interfering with accountability," said Nicole McAfee, director of policy and advocacy for the ACLU-OK. "And given the lack of trust that exists, legislation like this poses a threat to necessary and continuing movement work."

<https://theblackwallstimes.com/2021/02/24/oklahoma-bill-makes-it-illegal-to-photo-or-film-police-dems-vote-yes/>

We welcome any resources for our next issue! Please contact Nathan Brown, PsyD at nbro10@lshusc.edu or Sandy Hyatt, PsyD shyatt@lshusc.edu.