



# Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. (WUCMAA)

## We Stand in Solidarity Condemning Racism and Xenophobia Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Amidst COVID-19 in Wisconsin

For Immediate Release

April 16, 2020

The Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Associations (WUCMAA) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that supports ethnic non-profit member organizations throughout the state of Wisconsin with capacity building, financial resources, and advocacy services. In the last several weeks, WUCMAA has heard many stories of racism and acts of bigotry against AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) in Wisconsin and throughout the country. Many AAPI community members have expressed fear about their safety and the safety of their families throughout Wisconsin.

As an organization committed to being a strong and unified driver for advocacy and community development in underserved populations such as the Hmong and other Southeast Asian communities, WUCMAA strongly condemns these xenophobic and discriminatory acts against AAPIs across Wisconsin and the nation and strongly urge leaders at the local, state, and national levels to take these issues seriously before they escalate. Racist actions such as racial slurs, xenophobic indifference in public settings, and property damage have continued to increase in Wisconsin and in these uncertain times, it is critical that everyone feels safe and supported, so we can collectively overcome the challenges and tragedies of COVID-19.

COVID-19 does not discriminate against race, color, ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality, ability, or citizenship status. Everyone is susceptible to this aggressive virus and it will take everyone's commitment to flatten the curve to avoid devastating outcomes. We are in this together and we implore individuals, communities, schools, businesses, and leaders to condemn and respond to racism against AAPIs in a vigilant manner.

In a proactive effort, WUCMAA has been working closely with member agencies, local law enforcement, the Wisconsin Attorney General, the US Attorney General's office, and the FBI to address these growing racist acts. Thank you to all agencies for your dedication to working with our AAPI communities in ensuring safety for everyone. Equally important, we strongly encourage all community members, especially AAPIs to report any and all incidents of racism to their local law enforcement agencies. It is vital to document every incident so these acts can be

Hmong American Friendship  
Association, Inc.  
Milwaukee

Hmong American Association  
of Portage County, Inc.  
Stevens Point

Hmong American Partnership  
of Fox Valley, Inc.  
Appleton

Hmong Mutual Assistance  
Association of Sheboygan, Inc.  
Sheboygan

United Asian Services of  
Wisconsin, Inc.  
Madison

Hmong American Center, Inc.  
Wausau

Shee Yee Community of  
Milwaukee, Inc.  
Milwaukee

Wisconsin Lao Veterans of  
America, Inc.  
Wisconsin Rapids

United States Special Guerilla  
Unit, Inc.  
Manitowoc

Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of  
Commerce, Inc.  
Statewide

Hmong Cultural and  
Community Agency, Inc.  
La Crosse

United Hmong of Wisconsin  
Outreach, Inc.  
Butler

addressed effectively, whether through education or legal action, decisive conversations need to happen and that starts with reporting.

We also acknowledge that our Black, African, Latinx, Native/Indigenous, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, refugee, immigrant, undocumented, and other marginalized communities continue to have similar experiences with discrimination and racism, and we stand in solidarity with everyone, as we move through these unprecedented times, in building safe and resilient communities for all.

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**Dawn Yang**, Owner/Director, Alternative Family Services (Milwaukee)

**Kou Vang**, President, Hmong American Partnership Fox Valley, Inc. (Fox Cities)

**Lo Neng Kiatoukaysy**, Executive Director, Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc. (Milwaukee)

**Kong Meng Vang**, Executive Director; **Nao Shoua Xiong**, President, Wisconsin Lao Veterans of America, Inc. (Wisconsin Rapids)

**Koua Vang**, Executive Director, United Asian Services of Wisconsin, Inc. (Madison)

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