

## Speaking, Connecting, and Getting Things Done

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At a time when humanity is isolated due to a pandemic, it is almost impossible for people to reach a sense of unity. Recently, in trying to put blame on someone for this situation, people have started to drift away from each other. In which conflict, as well as the feelings of animosity towards the Asian Americans and Pacific Islander community in the United States, are created. Obviously, since it is wrong to discriminate against others and even more so to enact violence because of one's race, a set of virtual streams could be scheduled in which those who have experienced these hateful experiences can converse with each other and those watching.

Significantly, conversations are an important step in improving situations such as the widespread hate crimes against the AAPI community. According to a Rossman School's article, "Importance of Conversation" by Gail Clark, "People learn by hearing each other's thoughts while observing facial and body expressions that show emotions" (Clark). To reiterate, Clark is stating that a face to face conversation is a great way to learn or process information. When talking about what is going on in one's mind and their situation the audience is able to get a clear understanding of what is happening. This is significant because in this large virtual stream or mass conversation, affected AAPI individuals can really make an impact for their audience by spreading knowledge about the issue and explaining what should be done. Using the strength of a conversation there's a chance to strengthen communities by allowing them to learn from each other.

Additionally, an opportunity of connecting can allow people to provide what is similar between them and understand each other. In an article by "The Opportunity Agenda", "Ten Lessons for Talking About Race, Racism, and Racial Justice", when talking about connecting to

an audience and expressing one's views, they state that "Starting with values that matter to your audience can help people to 'hear' your messages more effectively than dry facts or emotional rhetoric would." ("Ten Lessons for Talking About Race, Racism, and Racial Justice"). In other words, The Opportunity Agenda believes that it is important to talk about the important values of the audience and connecting can allow the audience to want to listen to the speaker. This is important because in these virtual streams the use of connections and mutual values, experiences, and feelings can make more people want to listen and take action on the tragedies of Anti-AAPI hate crimes. Creating these connections can really allow those involved in the streams to reach their audience and help the community see its issues.

Fundamentally, when collaborating, people can start to meet and understand each other and start to make great changes to help those affected by this violence. According to a blog post, "Collaboration is the key to equality, diversity and inclusion" by Lisa Hart Shepard when talking about the relationship between action, understanding and collaboration it is stated that, "Understanding the issues at large is critical to driving meaningful change and being able to facilitate or, even better, instigate action in your own local authority. But collaboration is key" (Shepard). In other words, Shepard is saying that collaboration is the main part of getting things done and acting on one's words. This is notable as the cause for working to end racism against the AAPI community is something that really needs to be acted upon, and using these streams of members of especially affected communities can really make a difference. People in their own neighborhoods can see issues within them and work together. When working side by side people can bounce ideas off each other and work together to bring a sense of unity.

This project can benefit those harmed by Anti-AAPI violence, as it provides different aspects that are key to improving a situation. When conversing different ideas are taught

allowing the listener to really learn from the stream. In connecting, listeners can understand where one is coming from and see the emotional side of the situation. Collaboration ties it all together, by making it so that words are acted upon after an issue is identified. As humans, it is important to be humane to everyone and that each person needs to make the effort to be a better person to another.

## Works Cited

Clark, Gail. "The Importance of Conversation" *Rossman School*. Rossman School. 25 Oct. 2016. Web. 24 June 2021.

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