

APIA Allies

Asian Pacific Islander American Allies

CAPAL Capstone Project

But first...who are we, in addition to being APIA Allies?

Mission Statement

Conversation on
diversity of APIA
community

Be a proactive call
for action

Importance of
advocacy work and
awareness

Significance of being an APIA Ally?

“In Asian cultures, people [often] see homosexuality as an action, not an identity.” - *Mochi Mag*



How does APIA Allies work?

Crowd-Sourced Letter

Back to Drive 8:47 AM 77%

Anonymous Ferret

About

Hello! It's wonderful to see you here, thank you for wanting to be a part of this.

We want to create a space where we can explain to those around us within the Asian (East, Southeast, South) community what it means to support our fellow lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) brothers, sisters, non-binary siblings.

We want this to be both a reactive *and* proactive letter. We grieve Orlando. But we cannot wait for another tragedy to happen in order to speak up. In this letter, we want to explain why we as a community need to care. Then we want to describe tangible ways on how to show that care both in our letter and continued in our resources section. We want to show how support for LGBTQ+ people can be accessible and normal.

Audience: Older Asian family members, first or second generation folk.

Tone: Urgent, but also loving. We want to engage the people around us in this conversation. We want to remember that as allies, it's not about us; it's about our LGBTQ+ friends and how we can best support them. Use accessible language, terms that can be understood by someone who is just entering the conversation.

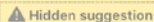
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Letter

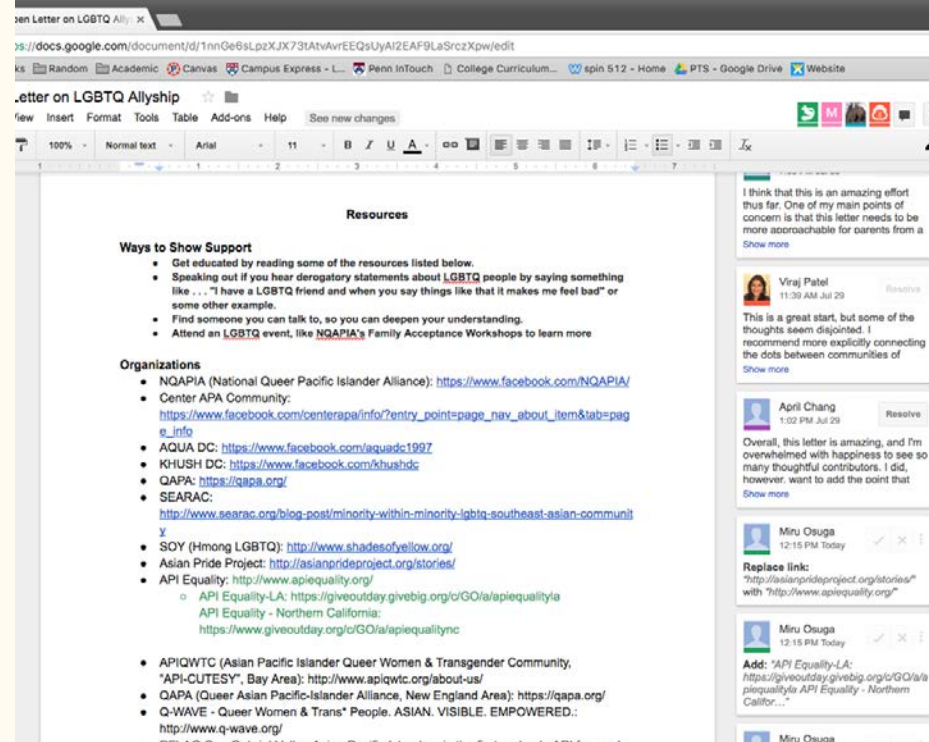
Dear Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, Grandmother, Grandfather,

I love you. That's why we need to talk about love. The kind that exists between all types of people, whether it's between man and man, woman and woman, or anyone in between.

You may not feel comfortable talking about love that isn't between a man and a woman. Maybe it's because your religion told you that it wasn't right. Maybe you don't know many women who love women (lesbian), men who love men (gay), people who love both men and women (bisexual), or people who do not identify with the gender assigned to them at birth (transgender).

Listen to me for a moment, clear your mind of what you've been told about our siblings who are a part of what we call the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community. Many of my friends are part of this community and are good people who work each day to make the world a better place. Some of them are doctors and lawyers, teachers and students, artists and scientists, parents and children. 

But my friends have been hurting, and that's why we need to talk about.



Letter on LGBTQ Allyship

Resources

Ways to Show Support

- Get educated by reading some of the resources listed below.
- Speaking out if you hear derogatory statements about LGBTQ people by saying something like "...I have a LGBTQ friend and when you say things like that it makes me feel bad" or some other example.
- Find someone you can talk to, so you can deepen your understanding.
- Attend an LGBTQ event, like **NGAPIA's** Family Acceptance Workshops to learn more

Organizations

- NGAPIA (National Queer Pacific Islander Alliance): <https://www.facebook.com/NGAPIA/>
- Center APA Community: https://www.facebook.com/centerapa/info?entry_point=page_nav_about_item&tab=page_info
- AQUA DC: <https://www.facebook.com/aquadc1997>
- KHUSH DC: <https://www.facebook.com/khushdc>
- QAPA: <https://qapa.org/>
- SEARAC: <http://www.searac.org/blog-post/minority-within-minority-lgbtq-southeast-asian-community>
- SOY (Hmong LGBTQ): <http://www.shadesofyellow.org/>
- Asian Pride Project: <http://asianprideproject.org/stories/>
- API Equality: <http://www.apiequality.org/>
 - API Equality-LA: <https://giveoutday.givebig.org/c/GO/a/apiequalitya>
 - API Equality - Northern California: <https://www.giveoutday.org/c/GO/a/apiequalitync>
- APIQWTC (Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women & Transgender Community, "API-CUTESY", Bay Area): <http://www.apiqwtc.org/about-us/>
- QAPA (Queer Asian Pacific-Islander Alliance, New England Area): <https://qapa.org/>
- Q-WAVE - Queer Women & Trans* People. ASIAN. VISIBLE. EMPOWERED.: <http://www.q-wave.org/>

Comment thread on the right:

- Viraj Patel (11:39 AM Jul 29): This is a great start, but some of the thoughts seem disjointed. I recommend more explicitly connecting the dots between communities of...
- April Chang (1:02 PM Jul 29): Overall, this letter is amazing, and I'm overwhelmed with happiness to see so many thoughtful contributors. I did, however, want to add the point that...
- Miru Osuga (12:15 PM Today): Replace link: "http://asianprideproject.org/stories/" with "http://www.apiequality.org/"
- Miru Osuga (12:15 PM Today): Add: "API Equality-LA: https://giveoutday.givebig.org/c/GO/a/apiequalitya API Equality - Northern Califor..."

Online Resource Guide: APIA Allies Facebook Page

APIA Allies Facebook Page

APIA ALLIES Asian & Pacific Islander American Allies
Published by Marisa Palpongna [?] · July 29 at 9:00pm · 🌐

A TED Talk by Geena Rocero, a Filipino American supermodel and founder of Gender Proud, an advocacy organization striving to support transgender organizations around the world.

http://www.ted.com/talks/geena_rocero_why_i_must_come_out



Why I must come out

When fashion model Geena Rocero first saw a photo of herself in a bikini, "I thought ... you have arrived!" As she reveals, that's because she was born with the gender assignment "boy." In this moving talk, Rocero tells the story of becoming who she...

TED.COM | BY GEENA ROCERO

81 people reached

Boost Post

APIA ALLIES Asian & Pacific Islander American Allies
Published by Miru Osuga [?] · July 31 at 3:00pm · 🌐

""Queer,"" my brother repeated. "What's that mean?"

"I don't know how to explain it," I said. I was pushing chow fun onto his plate so he'd look at that instead of at me. "I'm just dating someone right now, I want to be able to tell you about her."

"Well, that's cool," is all he said, emphasis on the word cool. Something about me was cool. I'm cool? Since when?... [See More](#)

Girls Like Me On TV

Ari Laurel Sailor Mars was my first crush, and I think when I realized it -- when I realized I didn't simply like her hair, didn't only admire her sass, didn't just want to shoot fireballs out of my pistol fingers -- everything else became clear: not only did I like girls, but I was also a hopeless,...

QASPACE.APIEQUALITYLA.ORG

19 people reached

Boost Post

APIA ALLIES Asian & Pacific Islander American Allies
Published by Rosa Keller [?] · 9 hrs · 🌐

Today is Give OUT Day!

Give out day is a national day of giving for the LGBTQ community - a 24 hour online fundraising event. These funds translate directly into services, advocacy, and programs that help tens and thousands of LGBTQ community members.

We hope you will consider investing in Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander LGBTQ people and family members.

We hope you will Give OUT and help us send a message of love to the people who need to hear it.

See the work being done by NQAPIA:

<http://www.nqapia.org/.../give-out-day-is-next-tuesday-augus.../>

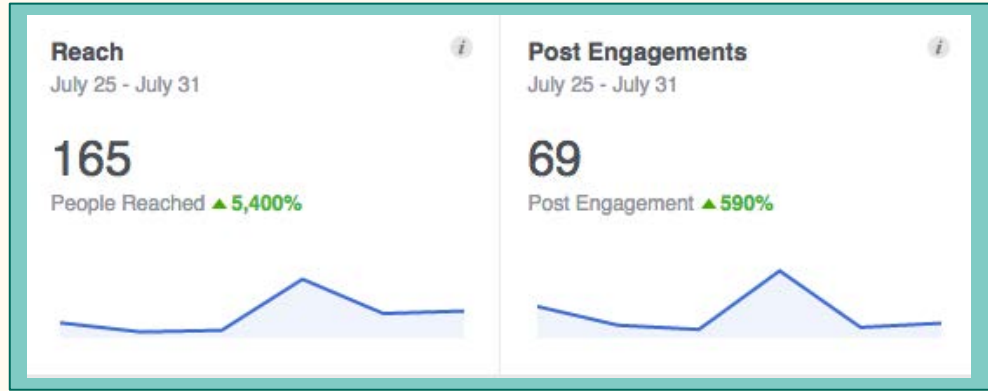
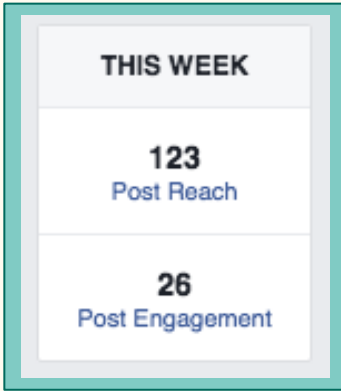


Give OUT Day is Next Tuesday, August 2nd! – NQAPIA

Give OUT Day is Next Tuesday, August 2nd! July 29, 2016/in Blogroll, Current, Donate /by NQAPIA On August 2, people around the country will come...

NQAPIA.ORG

Current Progress & Future of APIA Allies




Because even though President Obama legalized same-sex marriage, LGBTQ people of color are disproportionately affected by mass criminalization. Because even though *Star Trek Beyond* will feature a gay Asian character, North Carolina passed a law in March that requires transgender people to use the restroom that matches their birth certificate. Because after Orlando, many gay men were still unable to donate blood due to discriminatory FDA regulations.


While our country and the LGBTQ community heals from grief, we need to **stand by them now** by casting aside any behaviors of hate and misunderstanding. We need to show that heterosexuality does not have a place over other sexual orientations. **Replace "When you meet**


 Chloe Wilson
4:53 PM Yesterday Resolve

I think it would be good if we added a paragraph that acknowledges that the APIA community hasn't always been very welcoming to our LGBTQ siblings both within and outside of the APIA community. I think here it would be good to put something along these lines in:

Current Progress & Future of APIA Allies

 **Miru Osuga** 9:44 PM Yesterday
Really good point. Do you think this would be a good place for this to be?

 **Chloe Wilson** 9:51 PM Yesterday
Yeah I think so, since we just talked about LGBTQ within the Asian community. But it could also work after the "because" section.


 **Miru Osuga** 9:55 AM Today
oh totally! why don't you go ahead and place it where you think it fits and we can def's go from there?


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Please use "Suggestions" mode on doc. We encourage you to add your thoughts directly into the text.


We also have started a Slack account to help us communicate our thoughts more directly with one another, sign up here to be a part of it: <https://apiallies.slack.com/signup>


 **Gita Ram** 9:38 AM Yesterday
I think this part could be stronger especially since it is your call to action/thesis. Right now it seems a little to vague of what you're trying to accomplish though I know what you're trying to imply.


 **Lawrence T. Li** 8:05 AM Today
Agree with this - what is the goal? Are we addressing this specific tragedy or making a larger statement about support for the LGBTQ community?

~~This is a tragedy that should have never happened.~~ As Asian people in America, we are a family of immigrants. We understand the hard work and hope that living here takes. Currently, we are the fastest growing ethnic group in America. Of the more than 17 million of us living here, 1 out of 36 APIA's identify as LGBTQ. That's more than 325,000 siblings we need to love, support, and stand up for.

Our communities haven't always been welcoming to our LGBTQ siblings, both within and outside of the APIA community. From pointed avoidance to outright disapproval, any of our actions that have fallen short of open arms of love and support have only perpetuated the system that leads to tragedies like Orlando. Just as we did not choose our ethnicity, our LGBTQ siblings did not choose their sexual orientation or gender identity; just as we are able to be proud of our APIA identity, so too should our LGBTQ siblings be able to be proud of their identities. For at the end of the day we are all human, and it is only by fostering an environment of love and support for all people, whether in our community or not, will we be able to sustain and succeed at the life that you have worked so hard to build for us [here](#).

 **Gita Ram** 9:15 AM Yesterday
understanding (looks like it's the case now but just want to throw it out there)

 **Gita Ram** 9:15 AM Yesterday
Consider changing to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI).

 **Gita Ram** 9:29 AM Yesterday

Thank you!