

Youth-Led Organization Launch an Accessible Resource Guide to Combat Ableism and Racism in Asian American Communities

Filling the gap of a lack of disability support platforms for the AAPI community, The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative creates the first resource guide of its kind

January 10, 2022 – The intersection of disability and Asian American identity presents a complex sphere of cultural and social nuances that are yet to be properly explored, both in academia and in advocacy. The CDC estimates that 1 in 10 Asian Americans have a disability, yet nearly no research or resources exist in response to the specific challenges of being disabled in the Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIDA) community.

In response to this gap of resources, The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative (AADI) has officially launched the **AADI Resource Guide**, a nationally accessible resource guide to combat ableism and racism within the Asian American community. This publication is the culmination of dedicated research from the past year conducted by the organization’s research team.

The resource guide is a firm representation of AADI’s mission; the goal is to equip the next generation of disabled Asian leaders with the tools to combat ableism and anti-Asian hate. While the guide is tailored for disabled Asian Americans, this guide can apply to all communities and allies, and has wide-reaching implications for the disability community at large, shedding light on racial and ethnic disparities within the disability advocacy sphere. The content is applicable to caretakers, family members of disabled Asian Americans, allies of both the disabled and Asian American community, businesses and organizations striving for greater accessibility, and more.

“The conviction I have in our mission and vision is unparalleled: from the bottom of my heart, I know that the work we are doing has the potential to reach those that need it the most,” says Jennifer Lee, founder and executive director at AADI. Justin Tsang, the Director of Research, says, “We, at AADI, will fill this gap with this resource guide that informs the challenging issues Asian American youth with disabilities face, provides essential resources to help disabled Asian Americans, and shares additional opportunities on how you can be involved with our organization.”

Readers of the resource guide will find sections that cover the definitions of what it means to be Asian American and disabled and the historical systemic racism and ableism that exist in the United

States and how it affects the community. They will also find tips on digital accessibility and the effects of culture on disability. Those who do not identify as either Asian American or disabled will find allyship resources and testimonials from the team on the realities of living with disabilities as Asian Americans. The guide will also exist as a living document on the AADI website, where certain sections will continue to be updated on a regular basis, such as the list of changemakers in the community and the academic research section.

The AADI Resource Guide is now available online on AADI's website at aadinitiative.org.

About The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative

The Asian Americans with Disabilities Initiative, or AADI, is a youth-led organization that aims to amplify disabled Asian American voices. AADI was founded in the spirit of intersectionality, creating the much-needed space to explore the ways in which disability and Asian American identity interact. Their mission is to provide the next generation of disabled Asian American leaders with accessible resources so that they can combat anti-Asian racism and ableism in their own communities.