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APALA Launches the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge

Washington, D.C. - Over the last couple of months, we have witnessed some of the worst forms of violence in recent history. More importantly, it has become evident that the ongoing violence that has ensued continues to disproportionately target marginalized communities.

We witnessed the ongoing impact of homophobia and transphobia in the wake of the #PulseShooting on June 12, 2016 when the lives 49 of our queer and trans brothers and sisters, many who were Latinx, were swiftly taken away.

We witnessed the ongoing impact of Islamophobia in the aftermath of the shooting in Orlando as our Muslim brothers and sisters were scapegoated to fuel anti-Muslim bigotry as an opportunity to advance gun reform policies that would heighten discrimination and profiling.

We witnessed the ongoing impact of xenophobia in the U.S. Supreme Court's 4-4 non-decision in the case known as Texas v. United States that continues to deny administrative relief from deportation to millions of immigrant families across the country.

We witnessed the ongoing impact of police brutality in the killings of Delrawn Small, Alton Sterling and Philando Castile as well as the hundreds of other Black lives taken as a result of police violence.

We witnessed the ongoing culpability of our criminal justice system with the non-indictment of police officers involved in the killings of 12-year old Tamir Rice, Sandra Bland, Freddie Gray, Eric Garner, Jamar Clark, Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin.

We witnessed the ongoing criminalization of a woman's right to abortion and basic reproductive health services in cases like that of Purvi Patel who will continue to serve time in prison despite being wrongly convicted of feticide and criminal neglect of a minor.

Unfortunately, these are only some examples of ways state and systemic violence have continued to prevent efforts towards achieving progressive changes within our communities. However, as a result of the model minority myth, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) continue to be used as a racial wedge to divide people of color, and we are demanding an end to the positioning of AAPIs as tools of white supremacy that support systems of whiteness and propagate anti-Blackness.

“APALA has always utilized an intersectional framework in all the work that we do. I am incredibly excited for the launch of the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge because it reinforces important intersections that exist across all marginalized communities,” said National President Johanna Puno Hester. “I am taking the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge because as a mother, I am forced to think about how the injustices of this world not only impact me but more importantly, my daughter. I refuse to be a bystander because I want to envision a future where my daughter and future generations after her can live in a country that is just and free.”

The #NotYourModelMinority Pledge is a call to action for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community as well as our co-conspirators to help shift the narrative and culture associated with the broader AAPI community. By taking the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge we are committing ourselves to a future where Black lives; people of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals; differently-abled people; Indigenous communities; people of various spiritual beliefs; working-class and immigrant communities; and women are freed from state sponsored and institutionalized forms of discrimination, racism, and violence.

In our current political moment, we have been given a choice to stand on the side of freedom and justice.

Now we ask: What side will you stand on?

Take the #NotYourModelMinority Pledge now: <http://bit.ly/NYMM-Pledge>

For information on the full campaign: www.notyourmodelminority.org

Interested in becoming an organizational partner? Click here: <http://bit.ly/NYMM-CoConspirator>

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The **Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance** (APALA), AFL-CIO was founded in 1992 as the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights.

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