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Southern DAILY

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EU agrees \$60 Russian oil price cap, hold-out Poland backs deal

Ukraine's President Zelenskiy and European Commission President von der Leyen shake hands before meeting in Kyiv

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen shake hands before meeting, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Kyiv, Ukraine September 15, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko/File Photo

Poland backs price cap after seeking extra conditions EU countries to formally approve the deal this weekend G7's price cap aims to cut Russia's oil income BRUSSELS, Dec 2 (Reuters) - The European Union on Friday agreed on a \$60 per barrel price cap on Russian seaborne crude oil, after holdout Poland gave its support, paving the way for formal approval over the weekend.

Warsaw had resisted the proposed level as it examined an adjustment mechanism to keep the cap below the market price. It had pushed in EU negotiations for the cap to be as low as possible to squeeze revenues to Russia and limit Moscow's ability to finance its war in Ukraine.

Polish Ambassador to the EU Andrzej Sados on Friday told reporters Poland had backed the EU deal, which included a mechanism to keep the oil price cap at least 5% below the market rate. U.S. officials said the deal was unprecedented and demonstrated the resolve of the coalition opposing Russia's war.

The price cap, an idea of the Group of Seven (G7) nations, aims to reduce Russia's income from selling oil, while preventing a spike in global oil prices after an EU embargo on Russian crude takes effect on Dec. 5.

A spokesperson for the Czech Republic, which holds the rotating EU presidency and oversees EU countries' negotiations, said it had launched the written procedure for all 27 EU countries to formally greenlight the deal, following Poland's approval.

Details of the deal are due to be published in the EU legal journal on Sunday.

EU SEES SIGNIFICANT HIT TO RUSSIAN REVENUES

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the price cap would significantly reduce Russia's revenues.

"It will help us stabilise global energy prices, benefiting emerging economies around the world," von der Leyen said on Twitter, adding that the cap would be "adjustable over time" to react to market developments.

The G7 price cap will allow non-EU countries to continue importing seaborne Russian crude oil, but it will prohibit shipping, insurance and re-insurance companies from handling cargoes of Russian crude around the globe, unless it is sold for less than the price cap.



Because the most important shipping and insurance firms are based in G7 countries, the price cap would make it very difficult for Moscow to sell its oil for a higher price.

The White House on Friday welcomed progress on the cap.



"A price cap will help limit Mr. Putin's ability to profit off the oil market so that he can continue to fund a war machine that continues to kill innocent Ukrainians," national security spokesperson John Kirby told reporters.

The U.S. Treasury said it would review the final details once the agreement was finalized.

"This unprecedented action demonstrates the unity of the United States and our allies and partners and we

look forward to working with the coalition to quickly finish implementation of the price cap," Treasury spokesman Michael Gwin said.

The chair of the Russian lower house's foreign affairs committee told Tass news agency on Friday the European Union was jeopardising its own energy security.

The initial G7 proposal last week was for a price cap of \$65-\$70 per barrel with no adjustment mechanism. Since Russian Urals crude already traded lower, Poland, Lithuania and Estonia pushed for a lower price.

Russian Urals crude traded at around \$67 a barrel on Friday.

EU countries have wrangled for days over the details, with those countries adding conditions to the deal - including that the price cap will be reviewed in mid-January and every two months after that, according to diplomats and an EU document seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The document also said a 45-day transitional period would apply to vessels carrying Russian crude that was loaded before Dec. 5 and unloaded at its final destination by Jan. 19, 2023.

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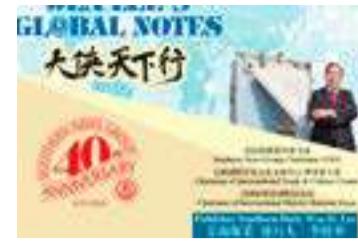


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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

12/02/2022

The Taiwan Cross-Straight Relations Need Peace



The Overseas Chinese KMT Alliance will hold a zoom meeting tomorrow and talk about the future of the Taiwan Strait.

I am very honored to be part of the seminar and to be invited and welcomed by all the scholars from Taipei who will join in this zoom meeting.

For many decades, thousands of Chinese students came to the United States to put their roots in this land. Their many great achievements from all walks of life helped make them become elites in this country. They became a cabinet secretary, a professor, lawyers, developers and members of Congress. But most of them still were thinking about their hometowns. As Secretary Elaine

Chao said, "We should be very proud of our heritage."

Just last Monday we hosted a symposium at our TV studio. We invited leaders from both sides, China and Taiwan, to sit down at the same table and discuss the future of China, Taiwan and the United States. Our common conclusion was that we must coexist peacefully. We hope the next leader of Taiwan, as the KMT comes back into power, will work hard to improve the relationship between Taiwan and China.

Today the world situation is becoming more and more complicated. We need to remind our political leaders and congressmen that we don't want the Ukraine tragedy to be repeated again in Taiwan.

In the future, we as Chinese-Americans should try to strengthen our communication with people from all walks of life and express our shared concerns about the Taiwan Strait crisis.



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Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Lava fountains and flows illuminate the area during the Mauna Loa volcano eruption in Hawaii, November 30. REUTERS/Go Nakamura



The Boss Baby balloon flies during the 96th Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City, November 24. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly



A general view of a Cameroon fan's teeth ahead of the World Cup match between Cameroon and Serbia in Qatar, November 28. REUTERS/Carl Recine



Israeli forces blow up the house of assailant Palestinian militant Yahya Mari, in Qarawat Bani Hassan in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. REUTERS/Mohamad Torokman



Children surf in the Mediterranean sea during a summer surf camp, at the city of Ashkelon. REUTERS/Amir Cohen



Police officers confiscate an Iran fans 'Women Life Freedom' Iran flag, inside the stadium before the World Cup match between Iran and Wales in Qatar, November 25. REUTERS/Dylan Martinez

In Celebration Of Asian American
And Pacific Islander Heritage Month**Asian American Business
Leaders Launch Effort to Fight
Anti-Asian Discrimination**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The initiative plans to support research to correct discriminatory practices against Asian Americans**Hundreds March In Los Angeles To Protest Asian Hate And Violence Against Asians.****Overview**

Anti-Asian discrimination, fueled by xenophobia and racist beliefs about the coronavirus, have plagued the AAPI community this past year. In order to promote equity and justice for all, citizens must fight racism and support people of Asian descent. Violence and discrimination against Asian Americans has surged over the past year. The United Nations calls on all countries to promote equity, tolerance, and inclusion — without doing so, we'll never end extreme poverty.

Amid a global rise in hate crimes against people of Asian descent over the past year, many individuals have decided to take a stand. From raising money to ensure Asian people feel safe to organizations fighting racism and discrimination, people around the world are attempting to end the bigotry and ignorance that leads to hate.

Now, a group of Asian American business leaders have launched a new initiative to help, pledging \$125 million over the next five years to The Asian American Foundation (AAAF), according to the New York Times.

AAAF will prioritize efforts in three areas — anti-hate, education, and data and research — to combat discriminatory practices that have plagued the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

Within these areas, AAAF seeks to build long-term solutions to defeat anti-Asian discrimination, invest in data-driven research to inform future policymaking, and create school curriculums that reflect the history of AAPI people in the US.

A woman holds a sign at a protest against anti-Asian discrimination. (Photo/Flickr/Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association)

The population of Asian Americans in the US grew 81% between 2000 and 2019, making it the fastest growing pop-

ulation among all racial and ethnic groups in the United States, according to the Pew Research Center. The community is projected to grow even more rapidly in the coming years. But Asian people living in the US have experienced a sharp rise in hate crimes amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has included racism and xenophobia.

The group Stop AAPI Hate, which tracks anti-Asian violence and harassment, received 3,795 reports of incidents between the period of March 19, 2020 to Feb. 28, 2021, and noted that this number represents only a fraction of the number of hate incidents that actually occur against members of the AAPI community.

"We created TAAF to stand up for the 23 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in this country and help bring us all together in the fight for our own prosperity," said Sona Shah, president of TAAF. "TAAF wants to strengthen and build power for AAPIs, particularly as we face an exponential increase in hate and violence."

The founders board of TAAF is chaired by Li Lu, founder of hedge fund Himalaya Capital, and includes billionaires Jerry Yang, the co-founder of Yahoo, and Joseph Tsai, co-founder of Alibaba Group Holding, according to Reuters.

A number of partners are supporting the new initiative, and The Coca-Cola Company, Walmart Bank of America, the Ford Foundation, and the National Basketball Association have donated an additional \$125 million, according to TAAF. (Disclosure: The Coca-Cola Company is a funding partner of Global Citizen.)

Asian Hate Cannot be Tolerated!

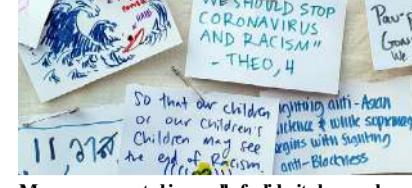
The total \$250 million pledge is the largest philanthropic effort to support the AAPI community, according to the New York Times. So far, TAAF has distributed several grants, including \$1 million to support the efforts of Stop AAPI Hate. The foundation says these grants will provide support to the organizations monitoring anti-AAPI hate to help build systems to measure and defend against anti-Asian hate in the long term.

"AAPI communities need systemic change to ensure we are better supported, represented, and celebrated across all aspects of American life," Shah said. "TAAF plans to spark that systemic change and help fundamentally transform AAPI empowerment and support well into the future." (Courtesy glovalcitizen.org)

Related**Groups Fighting for Asian Americans That You Can Support Right Now**

Groups Fighting for Asian Americans That You Can Support Right Now

Here are nine nonprofits and mutual aid groups focusing on Asian American rights that Global Citizens can support.

BUSINESS

These groups are organizing for equity and justice

1. **Asian Americans Advancing Justice** — Atlanta AAAJ is dedicated to protecting and advancing "the civil rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AAHPI) in Georgia and the Southeast." The organization helps people resolve legal issues and organizes communities with the goal of "promoting equity, fair treatment, and self-determination for all."

Learn more here.

2. Red Canary Song

Red Canary Song focuses on decriminalizing sex work, uplifting migrant workers, and advancing labor rights. The organization is advocating for a world in which all workers, especially Asian and migrant workers, have dignity and full legal rights.

Learn more here.

3. Asian American Feminist Collective

AAFC is an "ever-evolving" organization that engages in community building, offers political education events in public spaces, and provides resources to communities.

Learn more here.

4. Stop AAPI Hate

5. **Chinese Progressive Association (CPA)** The CPA primarily helps low-income Chinese migrants organize for better living conditions by, among other services, advocating for tenant's rights and providing material support to students.

Learn more here.

6. The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW)

This group seeks to help Asian American women gain access to positions of power in both the private and public spheres. CAPAW provides mentoring, networking, and education opportunities to its members.

Learn more here.

7. The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)

NAPAWF uses a "reproductive justice framework" to elevate and fight for issues affecting girls and women. The group works to end the gender pay gap, expand immigrant rights, and improve access to reproductive health care through legal efforts and community organizing.

Learn more here.

8. The Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

This organization campaigns to improve the opportunities available to Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) children by providing leadership development training and advocating for improved resource access.

Learn more here.

9. Asian Mental Health Collective

This group is working to break down stigmas around mental health within the AAPI community, while expanding access to mental health services.

Related**"It's Time To Act Now."**

President Biden Makes Racial Justice A Top Priority With Four Executive Orders



President Joe Biden delivers remarks on racial equity, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Jan. 26, 2021, in Washington, DC. | President Joe Biden delivers remarks on racial equity, in the State Dining Room of the White House, Jan. 26, 2021, in Washington, DC. (Photo/Evan Vucci/AP)

President Joe Biden signed four executive orders on Wednesday that address racial inequalities and injustice.

The first executive order strengthens anti-discrimination housing policies that were weakened by the Trump administration. The second order forbids the federal government from signing new contracts with private companies to house federal prisoners. The third order aims to increase the power of tribal nations when engaging with federal agencies, and the final order formally condemns the rising racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Biden said that these executive orders, which join a growing list of racial justice actions by his administration, are meant to redress historical wrongs and level the playing field for all Americans.

"We have never fully lived up to the founding principles of this nation, to state the obvious, that all people are created equal and have a right to be treated equally throughout their lives," Biden said in a press briefing. "And it's time to act now, not only because it's the right thing to do, but because if we do, we'll be better off for it."

Wednesday's executive orders were largely applauded by human rights, racial justice, and legal groups across the country.



The formal condemnation of racism against Asian Americans and Pacific Islander was heralded by the Asian American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (AALDEF) as a promising step toward a national reckoning with racism. The AALDEF noted that 2,800 hate crimes against Asian Americans were reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These incidents "followed the former president's repeated use of racist, inflammatory terms, such as 'China Virus' and 'Kung Flu,'" the AALDEF said in a statement.

The executive order on tribal rights was welcomed by the National Congress of American Indians. "The first steps President Biden has taken toward truth and reconciliation with Tribal Nations are so responsive to our needs and aligned with our values and principles. This order will, in effect, improve federal processes around policy implementation and budgeting for tribal lands, ensuring that tribal members and Indigenous communities have a say throughout these processes and that principles of transparency are upheld."

Biden also declared that the federal government will stop relying on private prisons, a first step toward removing the profit incentive from the criminal justice system. Reform advocates have long argued that the justice system criminalizes poverty through cash bail, civil forfeiture laws, and the overpolicing of poor communities.

(Article Continues Below)

**Southern
DAILY**Make
Today
Different(Article Continues From Above)**Asian American Business Leaders Launch Effort to Fight Anti-Asian Discrimination**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



President Joe Biden Signs COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act Into Law to Fight Anti-Asian Hate
The law responds to the surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans.



President Joe Biden signs the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Washington, DC. | President Joe Biden signs the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, in the East Room of the White House, on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Washington, DC. Clockwise from left: Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Vice President Kamala Harris, Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., Rep. Don Beyer, D-Va., and Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii. (Photo/Evan Vucci/AP)

US President Joe Biden signed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act Thursday to address the nationwide surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans over the past year. The signing of the bipartisan legislation follows testimony from experts about the rise in violence and grassroots pressure to protect Asian American communities. Biden spoke about the urgency of the matter while signing the law.

"All of this hate hides in plain sight," Biden said at the White House. "Too often it is met with silence — silence by the media, silence by our politics, and silence by our history."

The law seeks to break that silence by improving law enforcement capabilities for dealing with hate crimes. Law enforcement agencies will receive training to better identify hate crimes, while officials will also deploy public education campaigns and create hate crime hotlines. The Justice Department will install someone to accelerate the agency's review of hate crimes. Efforts to improve data collection around hate crimes will also commence.

Over the past year, more than 6,600 hate crimes have been reported against Asian Americans, according to the advocacy group Stop AAPI Hate. Experts point to misinformation surrounding COVID-19 and rising anti-Asian rhetoric from political figures and media pundits as instigating factors of the violence. The majority of crimes have taken place in parks, public streets, and businesses, and people report that verbal harassment, shunning, and physical attacks are the most common types of hate crime experienced. The public nature of these attacks has caused a feeling of dread to

pervade many Asian American communities. This dread peaked a peak in March when a gunman murdered six women of Asian descent at their places of employment.

Many Asian-American advocacy groups hailed the passage of the law as a historic moment.

"The passage of this bill today begins a much-needed step forward in prioritizing language access and culturally competent outreach to our communities in reporting and addressing anti-Asian hate, while also giving the communities power to allocate resources for community solutions to hate and discrimination, including non-law enforcement support services for victims and communities," said John C. Yang, the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, in a statement.

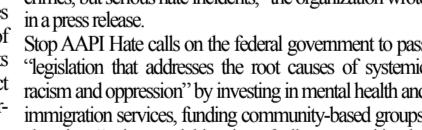
"This step forward also improves hate crimes reporting and data collection infrastructure to keep government agencies and law enforcement accountable to our communities' needs," he said.

Other groups, including Stop AAPI Hate, criticize how the law increases the power of law enforcement.

"Because the Act centers criminal law enforcement agencies in its solutions, it will not address the overwhelming majority of incidents reported to our site which are not hate crimes, but serious hate incidents," the organization wrote in a press release.

Stop AAPI Hate calls on the federal government to pass "legislation that addresses the root causes of systemic racism and oppression" by investing in mental health and immigration services, funding community-based groups, elevating "voices and histories of all communities by expanding ethnic studies and education," and "strengthening" federal civil rights laws that address discrimination in public accommodations." (Courtesy globalcitizen.org)

"The fear is very real": how Asian Americans are fighting rising hate crime



Protesters during the Asian Justice Rally in San Francisco, on 30 January. (Photo/Michael Ho Wai Lee/Sipa Images/Rex/Shutterstock)

After the Atlanta-area shooting deaths of eight people, six of them Asian women, by a white gunman in March 2021, President Joe Biden announced a set of actions to respond to anti-Asian violence and xenophobia, and in May, further established the White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, "to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities." Among other actions, the initiative will improve data collection methods that have left Asian people underrepresented in government statistics, and by extension, the resulting programs and policies.

Long-term, many agree that the answer lies in education.

In January, Illinois became the first state to require that Asian American history be taught in public schools. New Jersey soon followed, and at least nine other states are considering the same. "Members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community have made countless contributions to our state and country, yet they are made virtual-

ly invisible by our history books," said four NJ assembly sponsors of the bill in a joint statement. "This erasure ... not only prevents students from gaining a full understanding of our nation's history, but also opens the door for racial biases that can turn into violence and hatred."

As invisible as the hate crimes are, so are the victims.

People gather at the Solidarity Against AAPI Hate rally on the National Mall in Washington DC on 31 May 2021. (Photo: Bryan Dozier/Reuter/Shutterstock)

The new hate crimes act aims to fill some of those gaps by making it easier to report incidents and incentivizing local police forces to improve their data collection methods, for example through better training around how to identify hate crimes. (It also includes provisions named after Heather Heyer, the woman run over and killed by a neo-Nazi in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.) "You're not going to find anti-Asian bias if you're not looking for it, so this bill does help train police to look for it better," said Mark.

However, critics say it does not address the root causes of hate, and fear the statistics will merely result in over-policing of Asian and other ethnic minority communities.

"The community is divided about the role of police," says Yoo, executive director of the Asian American Federation, an umbrella organization for non-profit in NYC. In New York City, for example, people reluctant to interact with police can instead report incidents to the Commission on Human Rights, which collects data about (and sometimes acts on) bias, harassment and discrimination incidents in general — a wider array than hate crimes, which are narrowly defined.

"Dedicate resources to local communities," wrote Stop AAPI Hate in a response to the Covid-19 Hate Crimes Act. Existing grassroots efforts that have sprung up during the pandemic offer a glimpse at what locals feel is needed: new community groups, focusing on everything from mutual aid, to activism, to organizing volunteers to patrol the streets, to stoking pride in Asian American culture, have proliferated.

People rally calling for action and awareness on rising incidents of hate crime against Asian Americans in Times Square in New York City on 16 March. (Photo: Timothy A Clary/AFP/Getty Images)

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People gather at the Solidarity Against AAPI Hate rally on the National Mall in Washington DC on 31 May 2021. (Photo: Bryan Dozier/Reuter/Shutterstock)

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