

**Urgent Appeal to
the United Nations as
Regard to the Racial Discrimination and
Xenophobia against people from the People’s
Republic of China and other Asian People
under the Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus
(COVID-19)**



Footnote: The weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* has published a controversial cover, which has been considered by some as blaming China for the outbreak and fueling xenophobia.

Society for Community Organization (SoCO)

(February 2020)

Society for Community Organization (SoCO)
Urgent Appeal to the United Nations as
Regard to the Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia
against people from the People's Republic of China and other Asian People
under the Outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
(February 2020)

1. Introduction

Society for Community Organization (SoCO) is deeply concerned about all forms of discrimination against any person in the world. As a local human rights watchdog in Hong Kong SAR, China, it is observed that the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (now named COVID-19 by World Health Organization) also leads to the spreading of prejudice and racial discrimination against people of Chinese as well as people with an origin of East Asian descent. The racism leads to fear and anxiety against those people and worried that the virus will be spread by them. Worse still, hostile attitude and violent behavior will also be happened among different counties.

In the following urgent submission, SoCO submits an urgent appeal to the United Nations to draw high attention to various human rights mechanisms by summarizing some of the discriminatory acts and behaviors as reported by newspapers and mass media all over the world. It is sincerely requested that further action can be taken by international community on the racism concerned under the outbreak of the virus to prevent any violation of human rights of individuals and destroy of universal values on respect of human rights and humanity in modern world.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in December 2019, which originated in the city of Wuhan in Hubei, the People's Republic of China, there is a tremendous increase in the number of people being infected in China followed by the further spreading as more and more confirmed cases were reported all over the world.¹ According to the statistics by John Hopkins University as at 14 February 2020, 64,429 case of Coronavirus COVID-19 have been confirmed, while 63,848 cases were founded in China. Moreover, 1,383 cases were deaths and 7,080 cases were recovered. The mortality rate of COVID-19 is around 2.1%, which is much lower than that of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) happened in 2003 which is around 9% to 10%.

Regardless to its low mortality rate ranging from 2% to 3%², instead of the higher fatality rate of SARS,^{3,4}

¹ Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE (retrieved 14 February 2020)

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

² "Wuhan Coronavirus Death Rate - Worldometer". *www.worldometers.info*. Archived from the original on 31 January 2020.

Retrieved 14 February 2020 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/jmv.25689?af=R>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/coronavirus-death-rate/#ref-6>

³ Smith, Richard D (2006). "Responding to global infectious disease outbreaks: Lessons from SARS on the role of risk perception, communication and management". *Social Science & Medicine*. 63 (12): 3113–23. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2006.08.004. PMID 16978751.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953606004060?via%3Dihub>

⁴ Chan-Yeung, M; Xu, RH (November 2003). "SARS: epidemiology". *Respirology (Carlton, Vic.)*. 8 Suppl: S9–14. doi:10.1046/j.1440-1843.2003.00518.x. PMID 15018127.

people all over the world generally showed high anxiety under its high spreading effect to the society. It is speculated that the wild animals which people sold as a bushmeat is the host of the transmission of the novel coronavirus from animal to human beings. Although most of the confirmed cases were found in China (99%), it is pointless to conclude that all people in China are carrying virus or even using discriminatory wordings, such as “Viral China”, “Virus Chinese” to describe people from China. It blatantly insults and discriminates the people based on national origin and ethnic origin, which clearly violates the international conventions of human rights, including International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)⁵ as well as International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)⁶ that should be condemned.

The stigma, negative labelling and anti-Chinese atmosphere triggered from the COVID-19 was magnified by the video on social media and internet showing that suspected Chinese consuming a bowl of bat soup.⁷ It is treated as one of the classic examples showing as an evidence of the “disgusting” Chinese eating habit, though it was produced more than three years before the novel coronavirus epidemic and in Palau, a Pacific island nation where bat soup is a delicacy but not in China in fact.⁸

2. Discriminatory acts and behaviors in Hong Kong against people from Mainland China

After the resumption of sovereignty since 1 July 1997, Hong Kong SAR is setup and belongs to the part of the People’s Republic of China under the framework of “one-country, two-systems”. However, the development of nativism and xenophobic atmosphere against people coming from the Mainland China has become a common attitude in civil society in Hong Kong. During the virus outbreak, discrimination acts were also found in medical and healthcare professionals, in private market as well as comments in social media in civil society. Examples are illustrated as follows:

Case 1: Hospital Authority Employees Alliance (HAEA), the alliance for advocating the rights for the staff of Hospital Authority in Hong Kong, organized a strike in early February 2020, in order to pressurize the Hong Kong SAR Government to accept their five major demands. One of the major demands includes the “full closure of the border gate” between Hong Kong and the Mainland China. According to the position paper of the HAEA, the full closure of the border gate included the prohibition of all non-Hong Kong permanent residents entering Hong Kong from the mainland China. As far as non-Hong Kong permanent residents are concerned, which include all non-permanent residents of Hong Kong, i.e. new immigrants from the mainland China, mainland visitors with Chinese nationality as well as visitors with non-Chinese nationality.⁹ This

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1046/j.1440-1843.2003.00518.x>

⁵ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The United Nations

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx>

⁶ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, The United Nations

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CERD.aspx>

⁷ Coronavirus outbreak linked to Bat Soup sold at Wuhan market!!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RH18Lh67bnY>

⁸ "About that bat soup: spread of coronavirus and racism". Inkstone. Archived from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020. <https://www.inkstonenews.com/society/coronavirus-spreads-so-has-anti-chinese-racism/article/3048207>

⁹ Position paper of Hospital Authority Employees Alliance (HAEA) on 5 February 2020 namely *The Standnews* (Chinese version) Compulsory quarantine on people entering Hong Kong from the Mainland China from coming Saturday (8 February) HAEA: Worry Hong Kong become a large isolation camp and overload healthcare system (周六起大陸入境需強制檢疫 醫管局員工陣線：憂香港成大型隔離營 醫療系統百上加斤)

<https://www.thestandnews.com/society/%E5%91%A8%E5%85%AD%E8%B5%B7%E5%A4%A7%E9%99%B8%E5%85%A5%E5>

means that the new immigrants from mainland China, who generally deregistered their household account in China and received one-way permit in order to settle in Hong Kong, will not be allowed to enter Hong Kong anymore.

Although the demand may be related to preventing of virus spreading, barring Hong Kong non-permanent residents from entering in Hong Kong is disproportionate measure which will be ruled as unlawful by the law court. The demand is also a kind of racial discrimination against people from the mainland China on the grounds of national origin. However, discrimination on the grounds of nationality and differential treatment based on residency requirements are excluded and not covered by current Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap.602) in Hong Kong.¹⁰

<https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap602>

¹⁰ Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602), Hong Kong e-Legislation <https://www.elegislation.gov.hk/hk/cap602>
Section 8 of Race Discrimination Ordinance (Cap. 602)

Meaning of race on the ground of race, racial group and comparison of cases of persons or different racial groups

(1) In this Ordinance and subject to subsections (2) and (3)—(a)

race (種族), in relation to a person, means the race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin of the person;

(b) a reference to an act done on the ground of the race of a person is a reference to an act done on the ground of the race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin of the person;

(c) an act constitutes discrimination on the ground of descent only if it constitutes discrimination against members of communities based on forms of social stratification such as caste and analogous systems of inherited status which nullify or impair their equal enjoyment of human rights; and

(d) **racial group** (種族群體) means a group of persons defined by reference to race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, and references to a person's racial group refer to any racial group into which the person falls.

(2) An act done on the ground of any matter specified in subsection (3) does not constitute an act done on the ground of the race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin of a person; and section 4(1)(b) does not apply to a requirement or condition as to any matter specified in subsection (3).

(3) The matters specified in this subsection are—

(a) that the person—

(i) is or is not an indigenous inhabitant of the New Territories; or

(ii) is or is not a person who was in 1898 a resident of an established village in Hong Kong or a person descended through the male line from such person;

(b) that the person—

(i) is or is not a Hong Kong permanent resident;

(ii) has or has not the right of abode or the right to land in Hong Kong;

(iii) is or is not subject to any restriction or condition of stay imposed under the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115); or

(iv) has or has not been given the permission to land or remain in Hong Kong under the Immigration Ordinance (Cap. 115);

(c) the length of residence in Hong Kong of the person; or

(d) the nationality, citizenship or resident status of the person under the law of any country or place concerning nationality, citizenship, resident status or naturalization of or in that country or place.

(4) The fact that a racial group comprises 2 or more distinct racial groups does not prevent it from constituting a particular racial group for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(5) A comparison under section 4(1) of the case of a person of a particular racial group with that of a person not of that group must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same, or not materially different, in the other.

(6) A comparison under section 5 of the case of a person having a near relative who is of a particular racial group with that of a person not having a near relative who is of that group must be such that the relevant circumstances in the one case are the same, or not materially different, in the other.

Wuhan coronavirus: Over 15,000 Hong Kong medical workers join new union, threaten strike unless gov't closes border

29 January 2020 11:00 · Kris Cheng · 3 min read



More than 15,000 Hospital Authority (HA) employees have joined a new union, threatening to strike if the Hong Kong government does not close its border with mainland China.

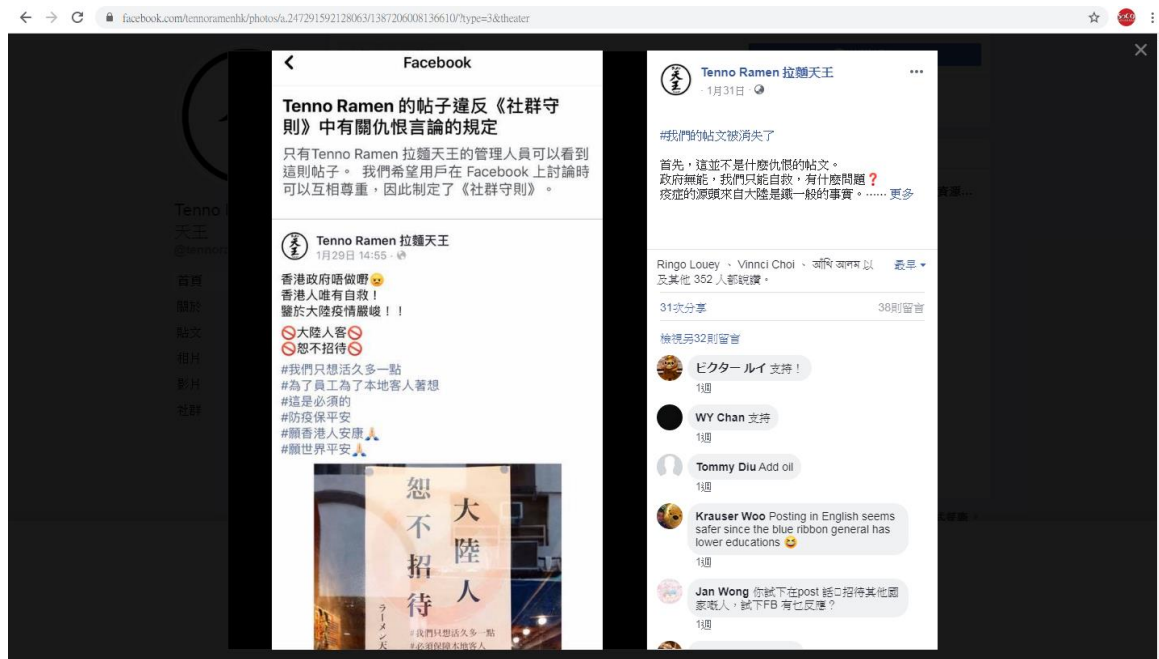
There have been eight confirmed cases of the new Wuhan coronavirus in Hong Kong, as well as four overseas cases involving people who had passed through the city. China has confirmed 6,000 cases of the virus, with a death toll of 132 as of Wednesday.



Wuhan coronavirus: Over 15,000 Hong Kong medical workers join new union, threaten strike unless gov't closes border

More than 15,000 Hospital Authority (HA) employees have joined a new union, threatening to strike if the Hong Kong government does not close its border with mainland China.¹¹

Case 2: Tenno Ramen, a Japanese noodle restaurant in Hung Hom, Hong Kong, refuses to serve mainland Chinese customers. The restaurant said on Facebook in 29 January 2020, "We want to live longer. We want to safeguard local customers. Please excuse us." The post was banned by Facebook on the ground that it breaches the Community Guideline in relation to prohibiting hatred speech.



¹¹ Wuhan coronavirus: Over 15,000 Hong Kong medical workers join new union, threaten strike unless gov't closes border Hong Kong Free Press 29 January 2020

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2020/01/29/wuhan-coronavirus-15000-hong-kong-medical-workers-join-new-union-threaten-strike-unless-govt-closes-border/>

Case 3: Kwong Wing Catering, a local food shop in Hong Kong, posted a notice in February 2020 that the shop only serves local Hong Kong people and only speak in Cantonese and English during the course of ordering food.^{12,13} In its press release, the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) reiterates that “it is unlawful under the Race Discrimination Ordinance (RDO) to discriminate against, harass or vilify a person on the ground of “race”, which may refer to the race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin of the person as defined by the ordinance. Although language per se is not included in the RDO’s definition of race, language-related requirements or conditions may result in indirect discrimination against a particular ethnic group if members of this group are unable to meet those requirements or conditions and suffer detrimental treatment as a result.”¹⁴



Case 4: A parody of the old pop song, namely *Love in Wuhan*, which was created by Sunny Lam, was widely spreading in social media and local society in Hong Kong. The lyric was re-written that the performance of the Hong Kong Government in handling the spreading of the virus was heavily criticized while people from the mainland China are ordered to going back to China. Moreover, the performer in the song is also in mask which disparages the people in mainland China. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvB0aZGem5I>



¹² ‘State only serve local Hong Kong people Kwong Wing Catering: EOC called and informed would be charged’, *HK01* (15 February 2020) Retrieved 17 February 2020.

<https://www.hk01.com/%E7%AA%81%E7%99%BC/435212/%E6%AD%A6%E6%BC%A2%E8%82%BA%E7%82%8E-%E6%9B%BE%E8%A1%A8%E6%98%8E%E5%8F%AA%E6%8B%9B%E5%BE%85%E9%A6%99%E6%B8%AF%E4%BA%BA-%E5%85%89%E6%A6%AE%E5%86%B0%E5%AE%A4-%E5%B9%B3%E6%A9%9F%E6%9C%83%E4%BE%86%E9%9B%BB%E7%A8%B1%E6%88%96%E8%B5%B7%E8%A8%B4>

¹³ ‘Kwong Wing Catering was threatened by the EOC’, *Apple Daily* (17 February 2020) Retrieved 17 February 2020. <https://hk.appledaily.com/local/20200217/KGW4AVQ5ZCDWE5RFMPDAKOWQ7U/>

¹⁴ Press release, EOC Responds to Media Enquiries, Equal Opportunities Commission (16 February 2020) Retrieved 17 February 2020.

<https://www.eoc.org.hk/eoc/graphicsfolder/ShowContent.aspx?ItemID=16463>

3. Discriminatory acts and behaviors against people in China and Asian people in other countries¹⁵

Due to the suspicion and fear of the virus outbreak, people worried that they will be inflicted by the Chinese people as well as people from East Asian descent. Discriminatory acts and behaviors against Chinese were widely happened all around the world. Some of the cases were summarized by countries as follows:

3.1 Australia

Case 5: At a Woolworths supermarket in Port Hedland, Western Australia, a person reported an incident whereby a staff member removed and refused entry to customers who appeared to be of Asian descent, claiming it was to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus. A witness to the incident made a complaint that was upheld by Woolworths who confirmed that the staff member had been in the wrong, apologized for the incident and said they were conducting a full investigation into the incident.^{16,17}

Case 6: Ravenswood School for Girls, a private school on Sydney's North Shore asked a South Korean student to leave her dormitory – even though she had not been to China since visiting Shanghai in October 2019 and was medically cleared when she arrived at the school.¹⁸

It is clear that there has been a growing number of reports where members of the Chinese-Australian and Asian-Australian communities have been subjected to vitriol and racist slurs, with some amounting to physical attacks, including suggestions on social media to cull the Chinese race and "burn down" China to stop the epidemic.^{19,20}

3.2 Canada

Case 7: Toronto website BlogTO noted stigma attached to Chinese food similar to what happened during the 2003 SARS outbreak. Racist comments were posted on its Instagram about a new Chinese restaurant, which some posters urged diners to avoid because "it may have bat pieces in there or whatever else they

¹⁵ It is acknowledged that most of the following cases cited are referred to the following webpage at Wikipedia under the topic namely Xenophobia and racism related to the 2019–20 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak and further retrieved and confirmed on the internet on 14 February 2020)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xenophobia_and_racism_related_to_the_2019%E2%80%9320_Wuhan_coronavirus_outbreak#cite_note-48

¹⁶ Vrajlal, Alicia (31 January 2020). "Chinese-Australians Facing Racism After Coronavirus Outbreak". *Huffington Post*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/coronavirus-australia-racism_au_5e33a522c5b6f2623326d72b

¹⁷ "Woolworths employee 'kicks out Asian customer' over coronavirus fears". *au.news.yahoo.com*. Archived from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/woolworths-employee-kicked-asian-customer-out-of-supermarket-over-coronavirus-fears-020043272.html>

¹⁸ Chrysanthos, Natassia. "South Korean student asked to leave Sydney boarding school over coronavirus risk". *The Sydney Morning Herald*. Archived from the original on 5 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/south-korean-student-asked-to-leave-sydney-boarding-school-over-coronavirus-risk-20200203-p53xce.html>

¹⁹ "This is racism': Chinese-Australians say they've faced increased hostility since the coronavirus outbreak began". *SBS News*. Archived from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 9 February 2020.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/this-is-racism-chinese-australians-say-they-ve-faced-increased-hostility-since-the-coronavirus-outbreak-began>

²⁰ Pearlman, Jonathan (7 February 2020). "Coronavirus: Chinese community in Australia complain of racism as MPs call for calm". *The Straits Times*. Retrieved 14 February 2020

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/australianz/coronavirus-chinese-community-in-australia-complain-of-racism-as-mps-call-for-calm>

eat." Instagram users also commented on a photo of a Chinese restaurant in Toronto, making comments like "No eating bats please! That's how coronavirus started in China!" and "I ain't trine catch no virus."²¹

Case 8: Frank Ye, a student at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Toronto told *CBC Radio* his Asian Canadian friends have witnessed people moving away from them or holding their mouths. His mother, a nurse at a Toronto hospital, was asked by a man for a mask because there were "just so many Chinese people around here."²²

Case 9: Peter Akman, a reporter who was with Canada's *CTV*, tweeted an image of his Asian barber in mask and said, "Hopefully all I got today was a haircut."²³ He was fired after the tweet was reported.²⁴

Case 10: An online petition was set up, urging schools to ban Chinese students. A board that represents 208 schools in Toronto condemned the petition, saying that it is inciting racism and bias. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned racism against Chinese Canadians during a Lunar New Year festival in Toronto.²⁵

Case 11: On 5 February 2020, the headline of the front page of *The Province*, a newspaper in British Columbia, read "2nd China Virus Case in B.C." Chinese consul general of China in Vancouver Tong Xiaoling demanded an apology from *The Province*, which she said "it is discriminatory and unprofessional". On February 8, Harold Munro, editor-in-chief of *The Vancouver Sun* and *The Province*, said referring to the novel coronavirus as the "China virus" was a way to geographically locate the origin of the virus, not to discriminate.²⁶

3.3 France

Case 12: French newspaper *Le Courrier Picard* featured an Asian woman wearing a mask on its front page on 26 January 2020 with a headline "Yellow Alert".²⁷ The paper also titled an editorial "A New Yellow

²¹ Ma, Alexandra; McLaughlin, Kelly (2 February 2020). "The Wuhan coronavirus is causing increased incidents of racism and xenophobia at college, work, and supermarkets, according to Asian people". *Business Insider*. Archived from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/wuhan-coronavirus-racism-asians-experience-fears-outbreak-2020-1>

²² Jaynes, Allie (28 January 2020). "Chinese Canadians speak out against racism, misinformation in wake of coronavirus". *CBC.ca*. Archived from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-jan-28-2020-1.5442819/chinese-canadians-speak-out-against-racism-misinformation-in-wake-of-coronavirus-1.5442824>

²³ Smith, Charlie (30 January 2020). "Journalist Peter Akman no longer works for CTV after infamous coronavirus tweet". *The Georgia Straight*. Archived from the original on 1 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.straight.com/news/1354031/journalist-peter-akman-no-longer-works-ctv-after-infamous-coronavirus-tweet>

²⁴ "CTV fires journalist after outrage over coronavirus tweet". *www.freshdaily.ca*. Archived from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020

<https://www.freshdaily.ca/news/2020/01/ctv-peter-akman-coronavirus/>

²⁵ "Trudeau condemns racism linked to coronavirus outbreak". *Global News*. Archived from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6494388/trudeau-condemns-racism-linked-to-coronavirus-outbreak/>

²⁶ B.C. newspaper's coronavirus headline called out for racial discrimination

"Archived copy". *CBC News*. Archived from the original on 8 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-newspaper-s-coronavirus-headline-called-out-for-racial-discrimination-1.5456658>

²⁷ Lam, Marco della Cava and Kristin. "Coronavirus is spreading. And so is anti-Chinese sentiment and xenophobia". *USA Today*. Archived from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/31/coronavirus-chinese-xenophobia-racism-misinformation/2860391001/>

Peril".²⁸ The publication drew condemnation from French Asians who started the hashtag #JeNeSuisPasUnVirus (which translates to "I Am Not A Virus").²⁹

Case 13: Many French-Vietnamese report also being subject to harassment. A French-Vietnamese student named Héloïse reported that the racist harassment toward her and East Asian people existed before and have just been more intensive since the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. She reported that people yelled at her "sushi", "nem", "manga" and "don't be close to that Vietnamese girl if you don't want to get sick!" as they go around her and run away.³⁰

Case 14: South Korean residents have also reported increased animosity toward them.³¹

Case 15: Some Japanese nationals have reported an increase in anti-Japanese incidents, such as being mocked on the street and refused taxi service.³² A Japanese actress working for the French company Louis Vuitton received a number of coronavirus-related comments on the company's Instagram page, which the company later deleted those problematic responses.³³

3.4 Netherlands

Case 16: Dutch news outlet NOS has reported that in many of its own Facebook and Instagram posts about the coronavirus, there has been many "racist, discriminating or anti-Chinese comments". Residents of Asian descent have reported to be called out for carrying the coronavirus during their commute, in the supermarket, or in school. Dutch YouTuber Hanwe of Chinese descent posted on Instagram that the virus "is no excuse for being racist", which received a mixture of "positive and negative" responses, the latter of which being comments like "You should all leave, or all die" or "It's your own fault for eating rats".³⁴

Case 17: Dutch radio DJ Lex Gaarhuis presented a Carnival song named *Voorkomen is beter dan Chinezen* (Prevention is better than eating Chinese food) on national radio channel Radio 10 under his alter ego Toon, which included the lyrics "We can't have the virus in our country, it is all caused by these stinking Chinese people" and "Don't eat Chinese food". After many complaints were issued against the radio channel and DJ Lex Gaarhuis primarily from the Chinese community in the Netherlands, both of them later made

²⁸ "France's Ethnic Chinese Community, Other Asians Complain of Coronavirus-Linked Discrimination". *Voice of America*. [Archived from the original on 3 February 2020](#). Retrieved 3 February 2020.

<https://www.voanews.com/science-health/coronavirus-outbreak/frances-ethnic-chinese-community-other-asians-complain>

²⁹ Paris, Angela Giuffrida Kim Willsher in (31 January 2020). "Outbreaks of xenophobia in west as coronavirus spreads". *The Guardian*. ISSN 0261-3077. [Archived from the original on 31 January 2020](#). Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/31/spate-of-anti-chinese-incident-in-italy-amid-coronavirus-panic>

³⁰ "Người Á không lạ chuyện bị kỳ thị, virus corona còn làm mọi thứ tệ hơn". *Zing.vn (in Vietnamese)*. 1 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://news.zing.vn/nguoi-a-khong-la-chuyen-bi-ky-thi-virus-corona-con-lam-moi-thu-te-hon-post1041849.html>

³¹ "Global coronavirus scare sparks racist sentiment toward people of Asian descent". *english.hani.co.kr*. [Archived from the original on 4 February 2020](#). Retrieved 14 February 2020.

http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english_edition/e_international/926438.html

³² "「新型コロナウイルス」とフランスでのアジア人に対する差別行為について | 大森美希 / ファッションデザイナー | note". *note (ノート)*. [Archived from the original on 4 February 2020](#). Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://note.com/mikiomori/n/n6a16cdc5a917>

³³ "Anti-Asian hate, the new outbreak threatening the world". *Nikkei Asian Review*. [Archived from the original on 8 February 2020](#). Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Anti-Asian-hate-the-new-outbreak-threatening-the-world>

³⁴ "Nageroepen vanwege het coronavirus: 'Dit is geen excuus om racistisch te zijn'". *nos.nl (in Dutch)*. Retrieved 8 February 2020.

<https://nos.nl/artikel/2321252-nageroepen-vanwege-het-coronavirus-dit-is-geen-excuus-om-racistisch-te-zijn.html>

formal apologies (with Gaarthuis saying the song was meant to be satirical but had overshoot its mark). A petition has been made in protest of racism against Chinese and other people of Asian descent named *Wij zijn geen virussen* (We are not viruses), which has been signed 12,000 times within a day.^{35,36}

Case 18: A group of Chinese students living in a student campus from the University of Wageningen discovered that their floor had been vandalised. The damages includes a torn Chinese flag on one of the student's door, an elevator littered with feces and urine and walls with English-language scribbles such as "DIE CHINESE" and "CHINESE CORONA".³⁷ The police are investigating this incident, but no suspects have been found so far.³⁸

Case 19: On a KLM flight from Amsterdam to Seoul, the flight attendants put up a Korean sign that passengers are not allowed to use the lavatory as the flight crew felt that the Korean passengers might infect the crew with coronavirus.³⁹

3.5 Germany

Case 20: The Chinese Embassy in Berlin has acknowledged a rise in hostile cases against its citizens since the outbreak.⁴⁰ On 1 February 2020, a 23-year old Chinese citizen in Berlin reportedly received racist insults and was subsequently beaten by two unknown assailants, in an incident classified by police as "xenophobic".⁴¹ A resident in Germany of Asian descent said, "With this recent coronavirus outbreak, it [racism against people of Asian descent] has just gotten worse.... we are basically stuck between getting ridiculed and being the recipient of disgust."⁴²

Case 21: The weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* has published a controversial cover⁴³ which has been considered by some as blaming China for the outbreak and fueling xenophobia.^{44,45}

³⁵ "Talpa Network". *consent.talpanetwork.com*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.hartvannederland.nl/nieuws/2020/chinezen-woest-om-corona-carnavalslied>

³⁶ "We zijn geen virussen!". *Petities.com*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

https://www.petities.com/we_zijn_geen_virussen

³⁷ "Chinese studenten in Wageningen opgeschrikt door doodswaarschuwingen". *hartvannederland.nl*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.hartvannederland.nl/nieuws/2020/discriminerende-teksten-studentenflat/>

³⁸ "Studentenflat Bornsesteeg niet direct op slot na anti-Chinese uitlatingen". *gelderlander.nl*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.gelderlander.nl/wageningen/studentenflat-bornsesteeg-niet-direct-op-slot-na-anti-chinese-uitlatingen~a24de72e/>

³⁹ "KLM Crew Accused Of Coronavirus Racism". <https://onemileatatime.com/>. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://onemileatatime.com/klm-racism/>

⁴⁰ "Chinesische Botschaft sorgt sich um zunehmende Anfeindungen". *Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg*. 5 February 2020. Archived from the original on 6 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.rbb24.de/politik/beitrag/2020/02/coronavirus-chinesen-botschaft-fremdenfeindlichkeit-berlin.html>

⁴¹ "Zwei Frauen gehen auf 23-Jährige an S-Bahnhof Beusselstraße los". *Der Tagesspiegel*. *Der Tagesspiegel and Deutsche Presse-Agentur*. 1 February 2020. *Archived* from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/polizei-justiz/chinesin-in-berlin-rassistisch-beleidigt-zwei-frauen-gehen-auf-23-jaehrige-an-s-bahn-hof-beusselstrasse-los/25498396.html>

⁴² Yang, Jeff. "A new virus stirs up ancient hatred". *CNN*. Archived from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 2 February 2020.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/30/opinions/wuhan-coronavirus-is-fueling-racism-xenophobia-yang/index.html>

⁴³ "DER SPIEGEL 6/2020 - Inhaltsverzeichnis". *www.spiegel.de*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/print/index-2020-6.html>

⁴⁴ "Fears of new virus trigger anti-China sentiment worldwide". *San Diego Union-Tribune*. 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/nation-world/story/2020-02-01/fears-of-new-virus-trigger-anti-china-sentiment-worldwide>

⁴⁵ *hermesauto* (5 February 2020). "German and other European media fan coronavirus fears and sinophobia". *The Straits Times*.

3.6 Indonesia

Case 22: A demonstration was staged outside a hotel in Bukittinggi, rejecting the visit of tourists from Southern China who stayed there amid fear of coronavirus. The demonstrators demanded that the tourists be isolated in an airport, and showed distrust over screening tools in airports. It ended after police guaranteed that the tourists would stay in the hotel up to the following day, when the tourists depart from the city.^{46,47}

In Ranai, Natuna Island, hundreds of residents protested against the quarantine of returning Indonesians from Wuhan at the island.⁴⁸

3.7 India

Case 23: Indian Islamic cleric Ilyas Sharafuddin said in an audio address that the coronavirus outbreak was a "punishment of Allah on China for mistreating Uighur Muslims". Ilyas said that "they [the Chinese] have threatened the Muslims and tried to destroy lives of 20 million Muslims. Muslims were forced to drink alcohol, their mosques were destroyed and their Holy Book was burned. They thought that no one can challenge them, but Allah the most powerful punished them." He added that "Romans, Persians, and Russians who were arrogant and stood against Islam," were all destroyed by Allah.⁴⁹

3.8 Italy

Case 24: *La Repubblica* reported that the director of Rome's prestigious Santa Cecilia music conservatory, Roberto Giuliani, suspended the lessons of all "Oriental students (Korean, Chinese, Japanese, with Koreans the largest group affected)" due to the epidemic, though most of the students are second-generation immigrants.^{50,51}

Case 25: According to the *Washington Post*, people especially from South Korea and China have experienced increased mockery and discrimination.⁵²

Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/german-and-other-european-media-fan-coronavirus-fears-and-sinophobia>

⁴⁶ Mandhana, Jon Emont and Niharika (2 February 2020). "Chinese Abroad Become Targets of Suspicion Over Coronavirus". *Wall Street Journal*. ISSN 0099-9660. Archived from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/chinese-abroad-become-targets-of-suspicion-over-coronavirus-11580659771>

⁴⁷ Liputan6.com (29 January 2020). "*VIDEO: Takut Corona, Warga Sumbar Demo Hotel Turis China Menginap*". liputan6.com (in Indonesian). Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.liputan6.com/regional/read/4166471/video-takut-corona-warga-sumbar-demo-hotel-turis-china-menginap>

⁴⁸ Siregar, Kiki (4 February 2020). "Disquiet in Indonesia's Natuna over use of island as quarantine site amid coronavirus outbreak". *CNA*. Archived from the original on 5 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/wuhan-coronavirus-indonesia-natuna-afraid-concerned-quarantine-12386040>

⁴⁹ Allah unleashed Coronavirus on Chinese for persecuting Uighur Muslims: Islamic cleric Ilyas Sharafuddin". *Times Now News*. 29 January 2020. Archived from the original on 31 January 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.opindia.com/2020/01/islamic-cleric-ilyas-sharafuddin-corona-virus-china-hindus/>

⁵⁰ "Roma, psicosi coronavirus. Il Conservatorio di Santa Cecilia impone: "Visita obbligatoria per tutti gli allievi orientali"". *la Repubblica* (in Italian). 29 January 2020. Archived from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

⁵¹ "'한국인 등 동양 학생 전원 출석 금지'...伊 음악학교 대응 논란". *연합뉴스*. 30 January 2020. Archived from the original on 1 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20200130200000109>

3.9 Japan

Case 26: In Japan, the hashtag #ChineseDon'tComeToJapan has been trending on Twitter.⁵³

Case 27: A server at a restaurant in Ito, a Japanese city on the Izu peninsula south of Tokyo, was recorded shouting at a tourist "China! Out!" A Chinese woman, who was the target of the outburst, immediately left the restaurant.⁵⁴

Case 28: A confectionery shop in Hakone, Kanagawa Prefecture put up an sign saying "No Chinese allowed!" prompting Chinese netizens to boycott the store.⁵⁵

3.10 Malaysia

Case 29: A petition in Malaysia calling for citizens from China to be banned from entering the country claimed that the "new virus is widely spread throughout the world because of [their] unhygienic lifestyle".⁵⁶ The petition was reportedly signed by almost 500,000 people within a week.⁵⁷

3.11 New Zealand

Case 30: MP Raymond Huo noted that there were racial abuse incidents in the country's Chinese community. An online petition to prevent people from China from entering the country was signed by more than 18,000 people.⁵⁸ In Canterbury, an email was sent to a Chinese-origin student's parent, which reportedly said, "our Kiwi kids don't want to be in the same class with your disgusting virus spreaders."⁵⁹

⁵² Stefano Pitrelli; Rick Noack (31 January 2020). "A top European music school suspended students from East Asia over coronavirus concerns, amid rising discrimination". *The Washington Post*. [Archived](#) from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 4 February 2020.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/01/31/top-european-music-school-suspended-students-east-asia-over-coronavirus-concerns-amid-rising-discrimination/>

⁵³ Kim, Sarah. "As The Coronavirus Spreads, So Does Racism — Both Against And Within Asian Communities". *Forbes*. [Archived](#) from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/sarahkim/2020/01/30/coronavirus-racism-asian-communities/>

⁵⁴ hermesauto (30 January 2020). "Fear in the age of coronavirus: Chinese no longer welcome". *The Straits Times*. [Archived](#) from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/world/fear-in-the-age-of-coronavirus-chinese-no-longer-welcome>

⁵⁵ hermesauto (22 January 2020). "Wuhan virus: Japanese shop's 'No Chinese allowed' sign provokes netizens to call for boycott". *The Straits Times*. [Archived](#) from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 3 February 2020.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/wuhan-virus-japanese-shops-no-chinese-allowed-sign-provokes-netizens-to-call-for-boycott>

⁵⁶ Solhi, Farah (26 January 2020). "Some Malaysians calling for ban on Chinese tourists". *NST Online*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2020/01/559942/some-malaysians-calling-ban-chinese-tourists>

⁵⁷ "Fear and racism spread worldwide along with coronavirus". *National Herald India*. [Archived](#) from the original on 6 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/international/fear-and-racism-spread-worldwide-along-with-coronavirus>

⁵⁸ "Calm urged as anti-Chinese sentiment felt in New Zealand". *New Zealand Herald*. [Archived](#) from the original on 6 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12304816

⁵⁹ "Police investigating 'ignorant, arrogant' coronavirus email". *Stuff.co.nz*. [Archived](#) from the original on 6 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/119225943/police-investigating-racist-coronavirus-email-say-xenophobia-will-not-be-tolerated>

3.12 Philippines

Case 31: Adamson University, a prominent Catholic school in Manila, received online backlash for ordering all its Chinese students to quarantine themselves amid the new coronavirus outbreak.⁶⁰ As a result, President Rodrigo Duterte has made appeals to the public to stop discriminating against anyone who has Chinese ancestry.⁶¹

3.13 Singapore

Case 32: A Singaporean started an online petition urging the government of Singapore to temporarily ban Chinese nationals and travelers from China entering the island country. The petition was signed by 125,000 Singaporeans.^{62,63} The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has ordered an investigation against a Islamic teacher named Mr. Abdul Halim Abdul Karim, after saying on Facebook that the coronavirus outbreak was "a retribution by Allah against the Chinese for their oppressive treatment of Muslim Uighurs in Xinjiang." In a separate post, Karim claimed that Chinese people do not wash properly after defecating and were not as hygienic as Muslims, causing the virus to spread. Home Affairs and Law Minister K. Shanmugam slammed the comments as "silly", "xenophobic" and "thoroughly racist" and is "quite unacceptable from anyone, let alone someone who is supposed to be a religious teacher."⁶⁴ The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) said it is aware of the post, which "expresses views that do not represent the Muslim community" and was investigating on the matter.^{68]} In response, Mr. Abdul Halim said that his Facebook post written in Malay, was not intended to be racist and didn't target "any particular race".⁶⁵

3.14 South Korea

Case 33: An entrance to a South Korean restaurant in downtown Seoul has a sign in red Chinese characters that reads "No Chinese Allowed".⁶⁶

⁶⁰ "Adamson apologizes, revises 'racist' memo after online backlash". *ABS-CBN News*. [Archived](#) from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/02/01/20/adamson-apologizes-revises-racist-memo-after-online-backlash>

⁶¹ "Philippine leader Duterte says xenophobia against Chinese must stop". 4 February 2020 – via Japan Times Online.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/04/asia-pacific/science-health-asia-pacific/philippine-leader-duterte-says-xenophobia-chinese-must-stop/>

⁶² Lam, Marco della Cava and Kristin. "Coronavirus is spreading. And so is anti-Chinese sentiment and xenophobia". *USA Today*. [Archived](#) from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/01/31/coronavirus-chinese-xenophobia-racism-misinformation/2860391001/>

⁶³ "Over 25,000 sign online petition calling for ban on Chinese nationals entering S'pore over fears of Wuhan virus – Mothership.SG – News from Singapore, Asia and around the world". [Archived](#) from the original on 4 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://mothership.sg/2020/01/singapore-petition-ban-chinese-nationals-wuhan-virus/>

⁶⁴ Kurohi, Rei (7 February 2020). "Coronavirus: MHA investigating religious teacher for 'xenophobic, racist' posts". *The Straits Times*. [Archived](#) from the original on 7 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/coronavirus-mha-investigating-religious-teacher-for-xenophobic-racist-posts>

⁶⁵ "MHA to look into 'racist, xenophobic' remarks by religious teacher over coronavirus: Shanmugam". *Channel News Asia*. 7 February 2020. [Archived](#) from the original on 7 February 2020. Retrieved 148 February 2020.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/mha-wuhan-virus-shanmugam-abdul-halim-racist-remarks-12403812>

⁶⁶ Fottrell, Quentin. "'No Chinese allowed': Racism and fear are now spreading along with the coronavirus". *MarketWatch*. [Archived](#) from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 2 February 2020.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/no-chinese-allowed-racism-and-fear-are-now-spreading-along-with-the-coronavirus-2020-01-29>

Case 34: More than half a million South Korean citizens have reportedly signed a petition lobbying the government to ban Chinese tourists from entering the country.⁶⁷

3.15 United Kingdom

Case 35: A rise in racist abuse against people of Asian descent, directly related to the coronavirus outbreak, was recorded across the United Kingdom. In London, a student of the Royal Holloway University was verbally abused by train passengers at Clapham Junction station, while a similar incident was reported by passengers on the London Underground⁶⁸ in general, there was a widespread rise in anti-Chinese sentiment reported in all forms of public transport.⁶⁹

Case 36: There were also several reports of xenophobic abuse in schools, with children of Asian descent becoming the victim of playground bullying and alienation as a result of the outbreak. On 30 January 2020, a postgraduate student walking alone while wearing a face mask on West Street in Sheffield city centre, towards the University of Sheffield, was verbally abused and nudged by three people.⁷⁰

Case 37: Tottenham Hotspur footballer Dele Alli posted a video on Snapchat where he wore a face mask and mocked an Asian man seated near him in Dubai about the coronavirus outbreak.⁷¹

3.16 United States

Case 38: In Los Angeles, Tanny Jiraprapasuke, 44, said a man riding public transportation directed an angry rant toward her about the coronavirus while she was traveling home with a friend late Saturday. Jiraprapasuke said at first, she didn't pay much attention to the man, who was yelling on the train. However, she became concerned when she realized his outburst was specifically about the coronavirus. As seen in video Jiraprapasuke recorded of the incident, the man can be heard yelling profanities, blaming China as the source of the coronavirus and making other hateful claims about Chinese Americans. Jiraprapasuke said that as the only Asian American on the train, she felt very alone at that moment.⁷²

⁶⁷ Shin, Hyonhee; Cha, Sangmi (28 January 2020). "South Koreans call in petition for Chinese to be barred over virus". *Reuters*. [Archived](#) from the original on 31 January 2020. Retrieved 3 February 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-health-reaction-southkorea-idUSKBN1ZR0QJ>

⁶⁸ "Is xenophobia spreading with the coronavirus?". *BBC News*. [Archived](#) from the original on 5 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-london-51361930/londoners-experiencing-racism-over-coronavirus>

⁶⁹ "Coronavirus panic is making the UK more racist, argues British-Chinese journalist". *LBC*. [Archived](#) from the original on 4 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.lbc.co.uk/radio/presenters/tom-swarbrick/coronavirus-panic-uk-more-racist-british-chinese/>

⁷⁰ Jones, Steve (31 January 2020). "Chinese student attacked in Sheffield over coronavirus". *The Star*. [Archived](#) from the original on 3 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/crime/chinese-student-attacked-sheffield-over-coronavirus-1381837>

⁷¹ "Dele Alli apologizes for coronavirus video". *CNN*. 10 February 2020.

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/02/10/football/dele-alli-coronavirus-apology-spt-intl-gbr/index.html>

⁷² "Asians worldwide share examples of coronavirus-related xenophobia on social media". *NBC News*. On 12 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/asians-worldwide-share-examples-coronavirus-related-xenophobia-social-media-n1132036>

Case 39: In an infographic on common reactions to the novel coronavirus epidemic posted by University Health Services at the University of California, Berkeley, the school advised that "Xenophobia: fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia and guilt about these feelings" is normal.⁷³

Case 40: An eight-year-old boy of mixed heritage was spotted at a Costco in Issaquah, Washington, with a mask and told by a sample-stand worker to "get away because he may be from China."^{74,75}

Case 41: A Vietnamese American woman saw hundreds of comments on her TikTok video about eating phở such as "where is the bat in that soup dish"; "this is clearly Coronavirus Era".⁷⁶

Case 42: A man reported that racial epithets were spread around on Twitter.⁷⁷

Case 43: China Town in Houston, TX faced a drop in customers after people falsely and maliciously spread rumors online of an outbreak of the coronavirus.⁷⁸

Given the above, it is crystal clear that xenophobia and racial discrimination against people in China and people with East Asian descent are common under the outbreak of COVID-19. The spreading of racial hatred and xenophobic behavior is like virus, which is deeply rooted and has serious negative impact on civilization than that of COVID-19. It will not only infringe the fundamental human rights of individuals from being discriminated but will also be harmful to the personal safety in daily life. Showing acceptance and non-discriminatory attitude are crucial as a basic respect to a human being. The above case illustration will be a tip of an iceberg. It is an alarm to remind the United Nations and all people in the world to prevent any further discriminatory act which would be detrimental to fundamental human rights as well as civilization of human history. Those racial hatred and racial discriminatory act should be criminalized in order to reflect the severity of the offence.

Although the World Health Organization's Emergency Committee issued a statement on 30 January 2020 which advises all countries to be pay attention on the "principles of Article 3 of the IHR," which the WHO says is a caution against "actions that promote stigma or discrimination," when conducting national response measures to the outbreak, the actual impact of the statement is weak around the world.⁷⁹ More actions should be taken to prevent the spreading of racial discrimination resulted from the virus outbreak.

⁷³ Asmelash, Leah. "UC Berkeley faces backlash after stating 'xenophobia' is 'common' or 'normal' reaction to coronavirus". *CNN*. [Archived](https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/01/us/uc-berkeley-coronavirus-xenophobia-trnd/index.html) from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/01/us/uc-berkeley-coronavirus-xenophobia-trnd/index.html>

⁷⁴ Al-Arshani, Sarah. "A Costco sample-stand worker turned away a kid wearing a face mask because she thought he was from China and could give her the coronavirus". *Business Insider*. [Archived](https://www.businessinsider.com/wuhan-coronavirus-kid-turned-away-food-samples-at-costco-2020-1) from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020

<https://www.businessinsider.com/wuhan-coronavirus-kid-turned-away-food-samples-at-costco-2020-1>

⁷⁵ Swaby, Natalie (27 January 2020). "Company apologizes after Eastside family alleges racial stereotyping at Costco". *KING 5 News*. [Archived](https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/family-claims-they-were-rationally-stereotyped-during-coronavirus-outbreak/281-e2e4fc8a-fe9e-4cac-bb61-e874d23ca38a) from the original on 2 February 2020. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/family-claims-they-were-rationally-stereotyped-during-coronavirus-outbreak/281-e2e4fc8a-fe9e-4cac-bb61-e874d23ca38a>

⁷⁶ Luu, Phúc Duy (5 February 2020). "Người Mỹ gốc Việt lên án tình trạng phân biệt chủng tộc vì vi rút Corona" (in Vietnamese). *Thanh Niên Online*. Retrieved 14 February 2020

<https://www.thanhnien.vn/the-gioi/nguoi-my-goc-viet-len-an-tinh-trang-phan-biet-chung-toc-vi-vi-rut-corona-1178743.amp>

⁷⁷ Cummins, Eleanor (4 February 2020). "The new coronavirus is not an excuse to be racist". *The Verge*. Retrieved 14 February 2020. <https://www.theverge.com/2020/2/4/21121358/coronavirus-racism-social-media-east-asian-chinese-xenophobia>

⁷⁸ Douglas, Erin; Takahashi, Paul (6 February 2020). "People just disappeared': Coronavirus fears weighing on Houston's economy". *HoustonChronicle.com*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/economy/article/Coronavirus-fears-weighing-on-Houston-economy-as-15033721.php>

⁷⁹ Statement on the second meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)". *www.who.int*. Retrieved 14 February 2020.

[https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/30-01-2020-statement-on-the-second-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-regarding-the-outbreak-of-novel-coronavirus-(2019-ncov))

4. Overall Recommendations

This is urged that the following measures should be implemented by the United Nations:

- (1) The United Nations is urged to issue urgent reminders to all State Parties that each State Party should put the greatest effort to prevent the general public or individuals from discriminating any persons on the grounds race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin in relation to the spreading of the COVID-19.**
- (2) The United Nations is urged to recommend all State Parties introduce legislation and amended legislation to prohibit any forms of racial discrimination aroused under the novel coronavirus outbreak to protect the people, including the Chinese people, people of East Asian descents, people inflicted with COVID-19, people recovered from COVID-19 as well as their carers, their family members and their friends.**
- (3) The United Nations is urged to all State Parties and national human rights institutions in their own country/region, to enforce the anti-discrimination law by investigating any cases of suspected racial discrimination and xenophobia against the Chinese people as well as other East Asian descents.**
- (4) The United Nations is urged to recommend all State Parties that related Governmental anti-discrimination policies and guidelines should be disseminated to the civil society and reviewed from time to time in order to eliminate such form of racial discrimination.**
- (5) The United Nations is urged to recommend all State Parties to educate governmental officials, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and community organization to deliver the concepts of anti-discriminations to the civil society.**
- (6) The United Nations is urged to recommend all State Parties to advise organizations and individuals in civil society not to distribute any forms of discriminatory words or comments under the COVID-19 outbreak through online social media or other forms of publication or expression in civil society.**
- (7) As far as the racial discrimination in Hong Kong is concerned, the United Nations is urged to recommend the Hong Kong SAR Government, China to amend the current Race Discrimination Ordinance by including discrimination against new immigrants from the Mainland China and people from the Mainland China to be unlawful. Moreover, the racial hatred and racial discriminatory act should be criminalized in order to reflect the severity of the offence.**
- (8) The United Nations should also recommend the Equal Opportunities Commission in Hong Kong SAR, which is a statutory discrimination watchdog in Hong Kong, to collect cases and review the current problems of discrimination as aroused by the current COVID-19 virus outbreak. EOC should be advised to have critical review on the current law and policy and make reform proposals to the Government in order to strengthen protection against racial discrimination.**

Introduction to Society for Community Organization (SoCO)

Society for Community Organization (SoCO) is a human rights pioneer in Hong Kong. SoCO firmly believes that everyone should be entitled to equal rights. Equal opportunity for participation and fair distribution of social resources is the foundation of human rights. In the face of the widening disparity between the rich and the poor, and the increasingly restrictive political arena, we stand firm in our crusade to establish an equal society and to build a strong power base for the people. We are motivated by a common dream, and that is: “Let us work hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder to build a caring, equal and just society”.

SoCO is an incorporated, non-profit-making and non-governmental community organization. It was formed in 1972 by missionaries from the Catholic and the Protestant churches under the ecumenical movement.

SoCO was financially supported by donations from overseas churches, local charitable foundations, the Hong Kong Community Chest, the Hong Kong Government and individuals. SoCO has, through civic education programs and social actions, nurtured grassroots people with a sense of civic rights so that they can exert their political power to the Government. During the empowerment process, people regained their self-confidence to champion for an equal social system. In view of the plight of the marginalized groups, SoCO also provides direct and emergent services to relieve their hardship temporarily.

Grassroots people are struggling day in and day out to keep their head above water. It is most scornful to see economic development brings social inequality. These deprived cannot enjoy our economic success and they are socially discriminated. They have been snubbed and fallen into oblivion. Standing in the line of underprivileged are caged lodgers, tenants with financial difficulties and living in appalling conditions, aged singletons, street-sleepers, ex-offenders, mentally ill patients, ethnic minorities, non-documented mothers of split families, families made up of new immigrants, patients and their families, Hong Kong residents being detained at the Mainland, etc. They are our serving targets.

In the coming years, SoCO will stand together with the grassroots in supporting them fight for their rights and social justice. By doing so, we hope that we can realize our common dream of making “all members of human family equal”.

Contact information of Society for Community Organization

Society for Community Organization
3/F, 52 Princess Margaret Road
Homantin, Kowloon
Hong Kong SAR

Tel: 852-2713 9165

Webpage: www.soco.org.hk

Fax: 852-2761 3326

E-mail address: soco@pacific.net.hk