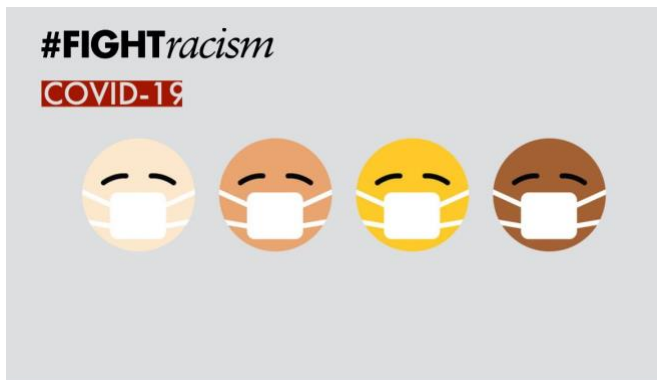


HATE OR IGNORANCE?

XENOPHOBIC REPERCUSSIONS OF COVID-19



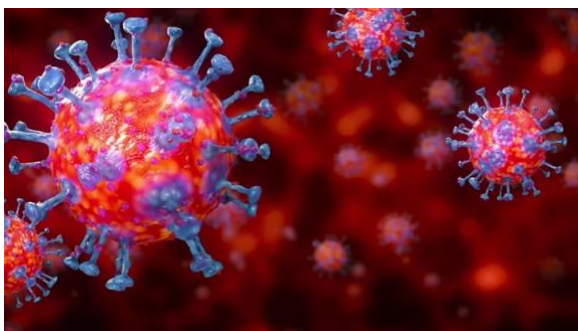
#FIGHTracism campaign from the UN.

Covid-19 and what is it?

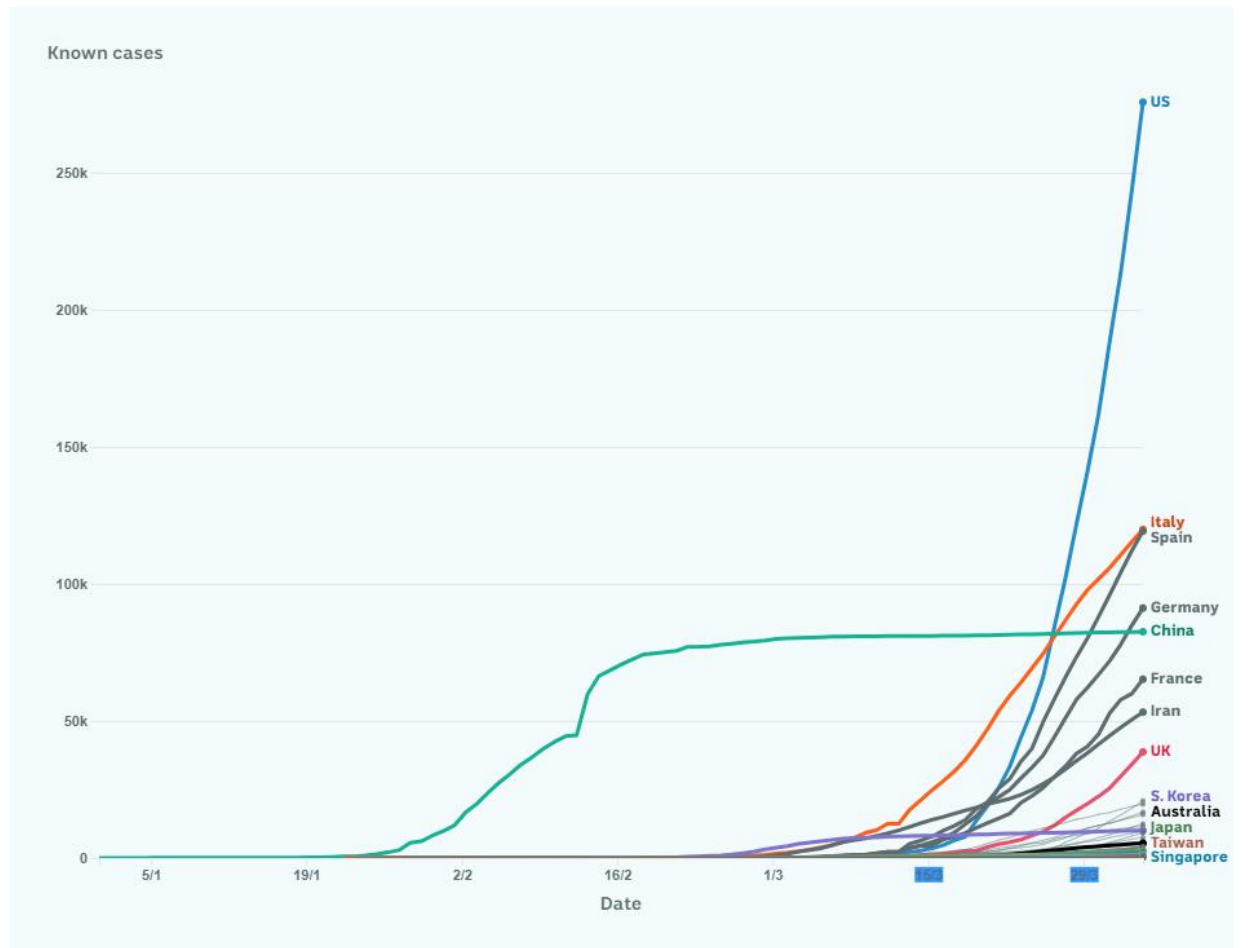
JOSHUA LOPEZ
8/4/20

Covid-19 or commonly known as Coronavirus is a new pandemic, having leaders and people across the world in panic. A virus originating from the Chinese province, Wuhan. The virus quickly spread, spreading to Eastern Asian countries, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea. Eventually reaching South East Asia, Europe and North America. Scientists believe that Covid-19 is a mutative disease similar to SARS, causing respiratory issues and pneumonia, fatal to the elderly population.

Efforts to suppress the disease were somewhat successful in the initial Asian countries listed, due to their experience with SARS. Although that cannot be said the same for countries such as Italy, Spain, Germany and the United States who suffered the worst; with Italy and the United States struggling to flatten the curve. Here in Australia things are going steady but cases are rising every day.



Covid-19.



The curve as of 3/4/2020.

Repercussions of Covid-19

Racism is an international contemporary issue. Obviously, racism as of recent years has not been as prominent, but since the rise of Covid-19 it has been used as a catalyst for xenophobia against Asians. Individuals believe that Asians are the sole reason in the spread of the virus, assaulting and demonizing Asians globally. Wuhan may have been the origin for the Covid-19 disease, Asians who are not even Chinese are being abused and assaulted across the globe due to their resemblance of Asian ethnicity; this is not only disgusting but an illustration of ignorance.

Xenophobia or racism's extinction is improbable, racism has always existed, not only racism towards Asians. Possibly due to the ill-minded mentality that the colour of your skin defines who you are and what you value. Africans perceived to steal and terrorize, Asians being perceived to eat wild animals,

Hispanics being impoverished due to immigration and taking career ventures into domestic jobs like gardening or house. This perception of ethnicity is not only ignorant but a damaging thought process. Asians have received the full force of the hatred and blame for Covid-19.

Whether this a product of pack-mentality, 'us and them' or a poor upbringing will be unknown. Xenophobic behaviours and instances have been popping up on screens digitally across the world.

In particular, a video of a young Australian boy, no older than 10, saying "F*cken Chinese". His message was not only his intuition but encouraged by his parents, asking the boy "Why can't you go to the park? F*cken", a small scaled example of the repercussions

Xenophobia at home.

JOSHUA LOPEZ

Shocking footage has emerged of a young woman screaming xenophobic abuse and spitting at two sisters while accusing them of 'bringing coronavirus to Australia'. The incident unfolded at Marrickville, in Sydney's inner west, in front of petrified witnesses.

23 year old Sophie Do, and her sister Rosa, 19, were crossing the road when the irate woman and her friend made the first of the many racial insults.

Two girls walked passed us yelling racist things like "stay away from them, they've got coronavirus",. Video captured by the sisters and onlookers showed the woman, in a grey sweatsuit, antagonise the two sisters before attempting to kick them.

I simply could not tolerate it, so I yelled back and said "Excuse me? What did you just say? Say it again", Rosa said.

The 19-year-old university student said the two women continued to taunt her and her sister. The woman in grey was captured on the footage screaming: 'I've got a knife in my bag... you little Asian dog.'

Get out of here now, who do you think you're talking to,' she continued to scream while shaping up to the sisters.

When Sophie and Rosa called the women out for being racist and asked them to walk away, the woman in grey responded: 'I'm not going to walk you dumb s**t'.

Rosa said the young women started walking away before coming back to abuse them again. She was untying her jumper from her waist and putting her bag on the ground, ready to fight me,' Rosa said.

The woman was then seen trying to kick Rosa's back, but Sophie quickly managed to pull her away. A bystander then rushed to intervene. But when he told the two women to leave Sophie and Rosa alone, she spat at them, getting saliva in Rosa's left eye and in her hair.



Image of 19-year-old suspect.



Image of young women who threatened and assaulted Sophie and her sister Rosa in Sydney's inner-west.

Xenophobia internationally.

JOSHUA LOPEZ

An FBI document says a young 19-year-old man facing attempted murder charges for stabbing members of a family at a Midland Sam's Club, United States. He did this because he thought the Asian Americans were Chinese and were "infecting people with the coronavirus."

The 19-year-old suspect admitted he tried to kill the family, according to a Midland Reporter-Telegram article from earlier this month. That paper also reported that the man is being held on attempted murder and aggravated assault charges.

The report cites an FBI document that warns of an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans as the Covid-19 virus magnifies in the United States. The pandemic started in China. As it has gripped America and Texas, the virus has unleashed widespread fear, anti-Chinese sentiments and outright xenophobia among American leaders.

Especially the American leader and president, Donald Trump. During a media conference the American President was asked why he continuously refers to the Covid-19 pandemic as the 'Chinese virus', replying 'Because it comes from China,' indirectly blaming the widespread on China. Ironically, China has managed to reduce the pandemic, even in the origin, Wuhan, whilst the United States has the most cases and has struggled to flatten the curve.

So next time you see someone don't base your opinion on social ideas or stereotypes. Base your opinion on them as a person, an individual not bounded by their skin colour, physical attributes or cultural difference. You wouldn't want to be treated differently, would you?