



Photo by Dean Moses, QNS

*Left to Right: Councilman Donovan Richards, Assemblymember and Brooklyn Democratic Party Leader Rodneyse Bichotte, State Senator John Liu, Assemblymember Ron Kim, Assemblymember Clyde Vanel, and Congressmember Grace Meng*

**March 10, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Lisa Derrick [Derrickl@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Derrickl@nyassembly.gov)

718-940-0428

# LAWMAKERS CALL FOR SOLIDARITY IN FIGHTING CORONAVIRUS

*KIM, BICHOTTE, VANEL, MENG, RICHARDS AND LIU ASK MEDIA TO  
STOP USING ASIAN AMERICANS AS THE FACE OF THE  
CORONAVIRUS:*

*CALL ON COMMUNITY LEADERS TO NOT POINT FINGERS BUT LEAD  
WITH EMPATHY*

**Flushing, NY** - This Monday, **Assemblymember Ron Kim** joined his colleagues in denouncing the rising tensions and targeting of Asian Americans in New York during the ongoing global coronavirus outbreak. He was joined by **Assemblymembers Rodneyse Bichotte** and **Clyde Vanel**, **State Senator John Liu**, **Congresswoman Grace Meng**, **Councilman Donovan Richards**, and a representative from Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' office. They stood with him in solidarity against the growing number of attacks and racially-charged encounters, including but not limited to a woman with a face mask being assaulted, a subway passenger being sprayed with Febreze, and other troubling incidents. They decried the normalizing of images with Asian faces by the media, a prevailing practice seen in mainstream media outlets even long after COVID-19 had appeared widely in several across multiple continents.

The legislators restated the evident truth that the energy and efforts of our city and state should be focused on the virus itself, which can and has been spread by anyone, and not against any single face or community. They celebrated their recent swift passage of a \$40 million in state emergency funds to combat the virus, while expressing dismay at the rise in incidents involving bias, violence and potential hate crimes. Asian American businesses in many industries throughout New York, particularly in the service and retail sector, have also suffered dramatic declines in revenue since the start of the crisis.

"While we are working overtime in Albany to provide the necessary funds and tools to protect all New Yorkers from the coronavirus, it is disheartening to see increasing incidents of verbal assaults and vicious attacks against Asian Americans," said **Assemblyman Ron Kim**. "We must not let this virus become the trigger for a wave of pre-existing racist sentiments against Asian

Americans. The virus does not see race, walls, or boundaries. Now is the time for solidarity, compassion, and empathy, not hatred, violence, and ugliness."

**Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte** stated: "Asian Americans are every part of our community as Haitian Americans, blacks, Latinos, and all other immigrants that make up our city. I will not sit idly while we allow some of our worst tendencies toward each other to rise during these stressful times. Let's come together to hold our friends in the media accountable to stop using images of Asian Americans for the virus, and let's all lead with more empathy and compassion for each other."

**Assemblymember Clyde Vanel** stated: "I find it sad that our Asian American brothers and sisters, who are suffering the most economically due to the unwarranted fear of virus spreading in Asian communities, are also targets of hate crimes. I'm proud to join my colleagues to push back and tell all of our community members to work together."

**Congresswoman Grace Meng** stated: "Naturally, there is much concern about coronavirus. But concern and fear about the illness is not an excuse to discriminate against Asian Americans. Any type of discrimination, regardless of the form it takes, is unacceptable, and must never be tolerated. As I have been saying, people must not panic about coronavirus. People should be vigilant and prudent, and listen to our health professionals, but still go about their daily routines."

**Public Advocate Jumaane Williams** stated: "As the Governor has declared a state of emergency, and state and city governments are investing in the health and safety of New Yorkers, it's critical that we act with caution and common sense both systemically and individually in the use of resources and in our own personal conduct. If you feel sick, stay home. As we continue to monitor the situation, our office urges New Yorker to follow the recommended guidelines. We cannot let fear and bigotry overcome facts amid the rise in coronavirus cases. Turning our backs on our fellow community members will only hurt us as a city. Our office stands in solidarity with our Asian American communities and all our immigrant communities, especially during these cases and the hysteria surrounding them. Placing blame on our friends and neighbors will do nothing to prevent Coronavirus. We must remain calm, but we must also stay vigilant – we need to listen to the experts and do all we can

to prevent the spread of the virus and the spread of harmful and dangerous misinformation.”

**State Senator John Liu** stated: "The racist behavior is in some ways more frightening than the disease itself. Everyone is working hard to overcome the unprecedented spread of Coronavirus. At the same time we all also have to be ever-vigilant against negative stereotypes as well as outright racism and violence."

“Currently New York is dealing with an emergency public health crisis due to the coronavirus — but our community is also facing another emergency: extreme anti-Asian xenophobia,” said **Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou**. “There have been so many reports of Asian-Americans being attacked because they were just riding the subway, or wearing a face mask. Our community is losing business. Our community is hurt by this demonization. It is abundantly clear that the coronavirus does not discriminate based on race. It is unacceptable that despite this, there are people using it as an excuse to perpetuate racism and xenophobia throughout New York and the entire country. It is important that we stand together and remain educated on the growing emergency. Together we must stop the spread of the unfounded harmful stereotypes and hateful words that people are using to demonize our Asian American community through thoughtful and reasonable discussions.”

###



Left to Right: Councilman Donovan Richards, Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte, State Senator John Liu, Assemblymember Ron Kim, Assemblymember Clyde Vanel, Congressmember Grace Meng, Zachariah Boyer (representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams)

## In The News:



### Queens lawmakers call for solidarity as attacks increase ...

Local lawmakers are standing in solidarity with the Asian American community as extreme anti-Asian xenophobia is on the rise across the city following the global coronavirus outbreak. State Assemblyman Ron Kim was joined Monday by Assembly...

[Read more](#)  
qns.com



### 퀸즈·브루클린 지역 정치인, 인종혐오범죄 엄중 경고

론 김 뉴욕주 하원의원(연단)을 비롯한 퀸즈·브루클린 지역 아시안·흑인 정치인들이 최근 증가하는 코로나19 관련 인종혐오범죄 근절을 촉구하는 기자회견을 하고 있다. 뉴욕주에 신종 코로나바이러스 감염증(코로나19)이 확산되며 아시안에 대한 혐오범죄 또한 기승을 부리고 있어 지역 정치인들이 엄중 경고하고 나섰다.

[Read more](#)  
www.koreadaily.com



## 亞裔非裔民選官員籲 媒體勿濫用亞裔配圖

本報記者顏星悅紐約報導 隨著紐約新冠肺炎確診人數增多，歧視亞裔事件頻發。州眾議員金兌錫召集多名亞裔和非裔民選官員，9日呼籲民眾齊心協力、共渡難關，並譴責一些媒體報道新冠肺炎時，濫用亞裔面孔或亞裔社區的配圖。金兌錫表示，48歲華裔男子李乾陽 ( Li ...

[Read more](#)  
www.singtaousa.com

## 抗疫不分族裔 民代籲齊心

批不肖業者囤積抬髙醫療物資價格「該對此感到羞愧」

【本報記者顏星悅報導】紐約州眾議員金兌錫( Rodney Bichotte) 9日呼籲民眾齊心協力、共渡難關，並譴責一些媒體在報道新冠肺炎時，濫用亞裔面孔或亞裔社區的配圖。金兌錫表示，48歲華裔男子李乾陽 ( Li ...

## 疫情歧視 市府籲亞裔勇敢舉報杜絕歧視

【本報記者顏星悅報導】紐約市衛生局9日呼籲亞裔社區成員，如果發現有人歧視亞裔，請立即向衛生局舉報。衛生局表示，在新冠肺炎疫情期間，亞裔社區成員可能會遇到歧視，這是不對的。衛生局將採取一切必要措施，確保所有社區成員的安全。

## MTA改口了 允許員工戴口罩上崗

【本報記者顏星悅報導】紐約大都會運輸署(MTA) 9日改口，允許員工在必要時佩戴口罩上崗。MTA表示，由於新冠肺炎疫情的蔓延，員工佩戴口罩將有助於減少病毒傳播。MTA將提供必要的防護用品，並確保員工的安全。

體驗法式喜樂餐酒館 以客為尊的貼心服務

- 精選法式文化餐酒
- 專業服務 優雅環境
- 設備齊全 服務週到
- 歡迎各界人士 垂詢

718.442.8988

自由式游泳學院

專業教練 設備齊全

水上樂園

預防高血壓 飲食大寶典

紐約版 ny

[Read more](#)  
ep.worldjournal.com

Assemblymember Rodney Bichotte represents the 42nd Assembly District in Brooklyn covering Ditmas Park, Flatbush, East Flatbush and Midwood. She is currently the **Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MWBEs)**, and serves on the following committees: **Housing, Government Operations, Education, Banks, Health, and Higher Education**. She is also a member of the Task Force on Women's Issues and sits on **Governor Cuomo's Domestic Violence Advisory Council and Mayor De Blasio's MWBE Task Force**.

As a current Assemblymember, District Leader, and Chair of Brooklyn Democratic Party, Rodneyse Bichotte has been an outspoken advocate on issues concerning **immigration, education, economic development, unemployment, education reform, health care access, senior citizen centers, affordable housing, school safety, women's and LGBTQ rights** , as well as other issues affecting the quality of life in the community.

Learn more about  
Rodneyse Bichotte by visiting her website:  
<http://nyassembly.gov/mem/Rodneyse-Bichotte>

STAY CONNECTED

