

Asian Solidarity Collective (ASC) progresses forward into the Portal to Liberation in solidarity with Black lives for a world free from police, prisons, and borders. Through principled struggle, we can challenge any form of liberalism and neoliberalism where we require the collective work it takes to advance multi-issue struggles with radical agendas (Carruthers, C.). This alone begs of us to remember the work must be continuous, in the words of Black Lives Matter, that “this is not a moment but a movement.” Even though the 2020 election is over, we must continue to challenge the current police state and culture of policing in order to build a world without mass incarceration and deportation.

Joe Biden has been elected the 46th President of the United States of America. Remember that the fight does not end here and this is only one part of the hard work that must be done. For some, this begins a time of healing and repair after four years of blatant attacks by the Trump administration against BIPOC, LGBTQ2IA+, low-income, Muslim, Asian, refugee and undocumented communities nationwide. The actions and inaction of the Trump administration have caused immeasurable harm to oppressed communities that will be felt for generations to come, including but not limited to hundreds of immigrant children separated from their parents at the border being held in horrific detention centers, over 200,000 COVID-19 fatalities, conservative court packing that will likely result in the reversal of crucial civil rights case rulings which expanded the rights of marginalized communities, and state violence against anti-fascist and anti-police protestors. During the COVID-19 pandemic the blatant and deliberate anti-Asian racism that has come from the Trump Administration is a deflection tactic used to fire up their racist, white supremacist followers without actually handling the pandemic. The ramifications from these comments have been devastating to Asian and Asian American communities as organizations who monitor hate speech have documented a staggering escalation of anti-Asian incidents across the country.

While the results from this election may have restored hope for some, we recognize that Biden has harmed femme and trans people and that this can be a traumatic experience. We honor these multiple truths, experiences, and feelings. Whether you are taking this moment to process and heal from trauma or taking a sigh of relief, we must not forget the journey towards liberation for all, lies ahead, "between one world and the next" (Roy, A.).

Based on the speech given by President Elect Biden on November 7th at 5pm PT, his administration is emphasizing American exceptionalism and putting America first. This imperialist approach will continue to oppress the most marginalized and perpetuate the carceral state. Even though the fascist Trump administration has been voted out, the harmful white supremacist, patriarchal system is still in place. We can not become complacent and must continue to dismantle the imperialist system until we create a fully liberated world.

With two and a half months of the Trump administration still remaining, we have to stay vigilant. Over 70 million people voted for Trump in the election and showed that they still support an emboldened fascist, white supremacist. This massive turn out for a fascist, and multi-oppressive leader exemplifies the amount of work we have yet to do. We have to continue to grapple with the roots of this system that allowed a fascist like Trump to rise to power, especially as he refuses to concede. But we should also remain hopeful that Leftist organizers and Black organizers, including the most impacted communities, worked tirelessly to get out the vote to ensure Trump was voted out of office. Thousands organized in the streets not only for election defending, but since the emergence of uprisings in early June (not to mention decades of resistance) who continue to protest against the anti-Black racist and white supremacist system.

We are grateful for their perseverance and dedication to this long term commitment to freedom as this brings us hope that people are ready for real change. We must use this organizing power as a catalyst to continue the work towards liberation and abolishing the carceral state.

No matter who is in the White House, we must continue to organize towards liberation. We must hold our elected officials at all levels of government accountable to create equitable, anti-racist policies and demand justice for all BIPOC peoples who have been oppressed and harmed by white supremacist, heteropatriarchal institutions and systems.

ASC understands that voting and engagement with the U.S. political system can have a real impact on Black, Indigenous, and people of color, however incremental. We also recognize that these actions engage with a system of power that has always relied on policing, borders, capitalism, and white supremacy to maintain its authority. The system itself is deeply rooted in white supremacy, founded on colonialism and slavery, and continues to benefit from imperialism and capitalist exploitation of those who reside in the US and the most vulnerable countries around the globe.

As discussed during both our Shaking the Foundation and UnProp the Props virtual panels, “voting is not the end all, be all” (Moore, K.), and electoral politics is only one tactic we must implement to materialize “the conditions organizers need to create the alternative systems that will lead to liberation” (Man, S.). As an organization that is guided by abolitionist work, our goal is to dismantle the system completely and replace it with equitable practices. As stated by ASC active member Kat St. Aubin, “We use this world as a scaffolding. [We will] reshape it and take away parts of it as we build stable places to move forward from.” We will continue to fight for equity and justice until we reach a truly liberated world.

ASC's first post-election event was the History & Healing Summit on November 4, 5:30-7:30PM PT with ASC members Amelia Bachtiar, Mae Case, and Stacey Uy. We can continue to learn from those who have struggled for the freedoms that we must consistently defend and expand. Organizing every four years is not enough. The current surge in fascism and white supremacy is not new, but rather is a long-term condition that has been persecuting Black and Indigenous lives since the settlers first stole this land. We discussed the historical foundation rooted in long-term struggle, tangible steps to maintain forward momentum safely, and different self-care methods and tips to identify what works for you in times of uncertainty.

In the weeks and months ahead, Asian Solidarity Collective will continue to press on with our Portal to Liberation campaign which we launched earlier this summer. We remain committed to our goals as we continue to center those who are at the margins. We will continue to build and work with grassroots organizations who are aligned in principled struggle and forge on with organizing more people into the movement. We will continue to organize events related to our Portal to Liberation campaign along with amplifying the organizing work of sibling organizations we often partner with and support with radical agendas.

Since all forms of oppression are connected, our freedoms are bound together with Black lives. We must progress forward into the Portal to Liberation by practicing true solidarity with Black communities. We must move in collective action with the understanding that "when Black lives are free, we all get to be free." As we journey further into the Portal to Liberation, Asian Solidarity Collective calls on our Asian and non-Asian co-conspirators to enter the portal in solidarity with Black lives, to free ourselves from the police state, and to reimagine and create the abolitionist world we deserve.

Only we keep us safe. Only we can save us.
Asian Solidarity Collective