



## EXTRAORDINARY CHINESE AMERICANS

ENSURING FULL INCLUSION IN AMERICA  
ADVANCING U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

### *Open Letter from Committee of 100 President Zhengyu Huang*

Over the last year and a half, America has experienced a national reckoning on race in which the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others have resulted in a mass movement and calls for change. Moreover, in 2020, Asian Americans were blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic and subjected to a string of violent and horrific hate crimes. What has become abundantly clear for the Asian American community is the need to (1) track data on racial profiling, discrimination, and hate crimes and (2) push back against discrimination and hate wherever they may occur, in particular those emanating from our own government leaders.

The Committee of 100 is pleased to present this important white paper, “*Racial Disparities in Economic Espionage Act Prosecutions: A Window into the New Red Scare,*” jointly conducted by Committee of 100 and legal scholar Andrew Chongseh Kim, attorney at Greenberg Traurig, Visiting Scholar at South Texas College of Law Houston, and participant in Committee of 100’s Next Generation Leader program. The study, which Committee of 100 and Kim co-developed over years of research, includes data from 1996 to 2020 and offers an empirical analysis of U.S. government economic espionage claims. It is an updated and revised edition of a previous study which was published in 2017 by Committee of 100 and Kim “*Prosecuting Chinese Spies: An Empirical Analysis of the Economic Espionage Act*” as well as in the *Cardozo Law Review* in 2018.

This study is particularly relevant at this moment because it provides hard evidence that indicates a concerning trend of racial profiling in Economic Espionage Act (EEA) prosecutions. It is important to consider the backdrop of these prosecutions. In recent years the U.S. has devoted increasing amounts of attention and resources to countering Chinese espionage, theft, and hacking, most notably through the “China Initiative,” which started in November 2018. Although limited in scope, this study seeks to provide an empirical lens as an initial evaluation of efforts such as the “China Initiative” and the phenomenon of “researching while Chinese.”

In addition to Kim’s findings, this White Paper includes a statement from Gary Locke – the Chairman of the Committee of 100 and the first Chinese American Ambassador to China – as well as five independent commentaries to provide further context to the study’s findings.

Among the findings, the study provides empirical evidence that people of Asian ethnicity, and particularly those of Chinese descent, are disproportionately and adversely impacted under Economic Espionage Act prosecutions. In this era of geopolitical competition between the U.S. and China, Committee of 100 firmly believes in acknowledging and promoting the enduring contributions of Chinese Americans in American society. In our report “*From Foundations to Frontiers: Chinese American Contributions to the Fabric of America,*” published in February 2021, we showcased the numerous and significant contributions that Chinese Americans have made to America. We must never forget the historical context that the Asian American community has suffered under two centuries of racial stereotyping starting from the “Yellow Peril” of the 19th century to the “perpetual foreigner” stereotype that still exists today.

Recently, it manifested its ugly head in political catchphrases such as “Kung Flu,” “Chinese Virus,” “Wuhan Virus,” among others.

We Americans are not perfect. But we work on making this country a more perfect union that lives up to our founding ideals. For this purpose, every American must understand and push back against anti-Chinese sentiments, as we push back against biases towards any other races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

Fostering such an America requires solidarity with other racial groups. Black Americans know all too well the fear associated with “driving while black.” Muslim Americans understand the pain of having their loyalties questioned during the “War on Terror,” and Japanese Americans can recount the painful history of mass internment during World War II. Unconscious biases racially charged rhetoric, explicit discrimination, and racial profiling are not only issues important to Chinese Americans. They are issues important for *all* Americans.

Please join me in exploring the topics discussed in this White Paper as part of a larger conversation about race in our country and how together we can do our part in forging a better America.

--Sincerely, Zhengyu Huang