

LiNAVSA

Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations

Liên Hội Sinh Viên Việt Nam Bắc Mỹ

Vietnamese Dialogue: Issues of Anti-Black Racism and the N-Word

What does solidarity
look like to you?

“It’s not justice if it’s just-in-place
for me and mine”



LiNAVSA | The Impact of Language

She has
RBF

Your English
is really good

**What else
is harmful?**

Just
calm down

You were
asking for it



Inexcusable Excuses

Black Friend Pass

Issue of delegitimizing current issues & injustices; one person does not speak for the experiences and feelings of all Black folks.

Term of Endearment

Issue of erasing history and co-opting the n-word; taking the weight away dismisses the violent and derogatory history that gives a pass to white supremacy.

The “Soft” A

Issue of cultural appropriation; this is a piece of black culture and acknowledgement of shared obstacles--not Asian culture.

Why should the
Vietnamese
community care?





Anti-Black Racism Amongst Asians

What are we doing wrong?

- We are unaware of our linked struggles and are absent in the fight against injustice.
- We are picking and choosing when to play the oppression card instead of seeing the interconnected issues.

Why should we care about these issues?

- We face a common oppressor: white supremacy.
- The use of racial slurs and other derogatory language creates an apathetic culture towards the history and struggles of all marginalized groups.

What needs to change in the API community?

- Recognize that we simultaneously benefit from non-blackness but also burden from non-whiteness.
- Speak up and take action with greater awareness, cultural understanding, and humility.

UINAVSA | What can we do?

Collective Action Steps

Host more workshops and maintain the dialogue

Focus on being intentional with programming and external outreach

Support other marginalized communities and build relationships

Individual Action Steps

Commit to the cause, not just the moment

Learn more about your own history and other movements

Constantly self-reflect, use more inclusive language, and recognize that this is a lifelong process



Creating and Maintaining Dialogue

It's not my culture and word to be used.

It's not just a word. It's a dehumanizing word.

What message is this sending to others who might overhear you?

What other words of endearment can you use?

How would you feel if someone--especially a non-Asian person--called you chink or gook?

It might be a word you heard a lot growing up, but it's a trigger for others.

UNAVSA | VSA Scenario #1

You and your eboard overhear a member use the N-Word during a VSA general body meeting.

When you initially confront the member, they push back and say that they only use the word around close friends as a term of endearment.

How would you handle this situation?

UNAVSA | VSA Scenario #2

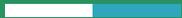
You are at a VSA social event when a song containing the N-word comes on. One of your friends is singing along and says the N-word. When you ask your friend not to say the N-word, they say it is okay because it's in a song. The music is loud and your friend seems dismissive of your comment.

How would you follow up on this situation?

UNAVSA | VSA Scenario #3

You are a staff member for your regional UVSA conference. As you are walking through the hotel lobby after scheduled programming, you notice a group of friends laughing and calling each other the N-word. You are bothered by this behavior but you're not sure if it's your place to confront these people. What would you do?

Questions?



Thank you!

Citation and Additional Resources

[An Apology to Black Folks](#)

[Asians for Black Lives. \(Peter Liang, Akai Gurley spoken word\)](#)

[Let's Talk: The N-Word and Anti-Blackness in Asian American Communities](#)

[On Solidarity, “Centering Anti-Blackness,” and Asian Americans](#)

[Resisting Anti-Blackness in Ourselves and Our Communities](#)

[Why Non-Blacks Rapping the “N-Word” Is Cultural Appropriation](#)

