

## **The Chinatown and The Rise of Ethnical Violence During Pandemic in the US: The Responses of International Cultural and Social Policy**

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### **Abstract**

Chinatown is a residential area inhabited by a group of ethnic Chinese. These settlements have been widely spread in various countries since hundreds of years ago and attracted the tourist all over the world. Nevertheless, the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic since 2019 has affected the existence of Chinatown as well as the increase of ethnical violence "Asian hates" in US. The purpose of this research is to analyze the implications COVID-19 toward the Chinatown and the rise of ethnical violence. Hence, the response of international cultural and social policy will be the framework in analyzing the phenomenon. This research uses descriptive-qualitative method that mostly collects secondary data such as books, journals, newspapers, magazines, news portals, articles, official websites, and so on. Through this method, the research found that the COVID-19 has significantly affected the rise of ethnical violence in most of the Chinatown in the US. However, the international cultural and social policy has responded that the COVID-19 is not only affecting the health sector yet also the social and cultural sector. The fact that cultural and social sector are vulnerable in pandemic situation should obtain the attention from various stakeholders including government and their policies. Furthermore, there are alternative strategies – cultural and social policy approach to prevent the increase number of ethnical violence occurred, especially for the future pandemic.

**Keywords:** Chinatown, COVID-19, ethnical violence, international cultural & social policy

### **Abstrak**

*Chinatown merupakan kawasan pemukiman yang dihuni oleh kelompok etnis Tionghoa. Permukiman ini telah tersebar luas di berbagai negara sejak ratusan tahun yang lalu dan menarik minat wisatawan di seluruh dunia. Meski demikian, munculnya pandemi COVID-19 sejak tahun 2019 telah mempengaruhi keberadaan Chinatown serta meningkatnya kekerasan etnis "Asian hates" di AS. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis implikasi COVID-19 terhadap*

*Pecinan dan munculnya kekerasan etnis. Oleh karena itu, respon kebijakan sosial dan budaya internasional akan menjadi kerangka dalam menganalisis fenomena tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif-kualitatif yang sebagian besar mengumpulkan data sekunder seperti buku, jurnal, surat kabar, majalah, portal berita, artikel, website resmi, dan sebagainya. Melalui metode ini, penelitian menemukan bahwa COVID-19 secara signifikan mempengaruhi munculnya kekerasan etnis di sebagian besar Chinatown di AS. Namun, kebijakan sosial dan budaya internasional merespons bahwa COVID-19 tidak hanya berdampak pada sektor kesehatan tetapi juga sektor sosial dan budaya. Fakta bahwa sektor budaya dan sosial rentan dalam situasi pandemi harus mendapat perhatian dari berbagai pemangku kepentingan termasuk pemerintah dan kebijakannya. Selain itu, ada strategi alternatif – pendekatan kebijakan budaya dan sosial untuk mencegah meningkatnya jumlah kekerasan etnis yang terjadi, terutama untuk masa depan pandemi.*

**Kata kunci:** *Chinatown, COVID-19, kekerasan etnis, kebijakan budaya & sosial internasional*

## **1. Introduction**

The statement by Donald Trump on his Twitter on March 16, 2020 about "China virus" has sparked the rise of xenophobia in the US (Arbar & Sebayang, 2020). Xenophobia is a popular term that describes an extreme dislike or fear of strangers, customs, or religion, etc (Zatira & Prakoso, 2020, p. 249). Donald Trump is known as a leader who has a fairly high xenophobia (Allen & Goetz, 2021, p. 127). This can be seen from the attitude of sentiment towards immigrants in US. This situation is exacerbated by Trump's initiation of policy changes, including the public housing assistance policy, which has a high xenophobic tendency (Allen & Goetz, 2021, p. 128). His tweet regarding "China virus" as a substitute for the term COVID-19 is certainly based on his xenophobia.

Racism and ethnical violence in the US are on the rise during the pandemic. Especially with the statement "a xenophobic president" which is considered to have violated the values of the Chinese race and ethnicity. Referring to COVID-19 as "China's virus" has resulted in an increase in ethnic violations and racism against ethnic Chinese in China. Responding to Trump-Zhang Jan's statement, China's ambassador to the United Nations stated that the tweet was a baseless accusation and a big lie (CNN Indonesia, 2020). Then Geng Shuang, a spokesperson for China's Foreign Ministry responded that attributing the pandemic to China as "China's virus" is stigmatizing (Arbar & Sebayang, 2020). It means, the COVID-19 pandemic has nothing to do with China's virus. Labeling it as a "China's virus" is different to the term "virus that firstly emerged in China. It has been firstly reported in Wuhan, China yet there is still less possibility that the virus is authentically from China. Hence, World Health Organization has announced the virus's name as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as the disease (people who are infected with the virus) on 11 February 2020 (WHO, 2020).

Trump's xenophobic attitude has had a negative impact on the security sector during the COVID-19 pandemic including the security of ethnic group. This also has an impact on Chinatown as a residential area for Chinese ethnic groups who are objects of racism and ethnic violations. Chinatown has become a big icon in history for being a residential place inhabited by the Chinese ethnic group. These settlements have been widespread in various countries since the 3rd century (Wong, 1995, p. 3). Chinatowns are found in various parts of the world such as the European continent, the Asian continent, the African continent, the Australian continent, as well as the American continent. According to (Chinatownlogy, 2022), the existence of Chinatown has become a symbol of ethnic Chinese diversity in a region outside China. Among the many Chinatowns, there are 35 big Chinatowns from 19 countries that are included in the Chinatown official website. There are 16 Chinatowns from 11 countries (Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Buma, Malaysia, Laos, Singapore, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand). Then there are 12 Chinatowns spread across the European continent, and consists of 5 countries, namely Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Greece, and France. While in America there are 7 Chinatowns from 3 countries, namely the United States, Argentina, and Canada. Hence the emergence of Chinatown in US has been since the 19th century and is now scattered in various regions across US.

As a place of settlement for ethnic Chinese in the US, Chinatown has become a strong object of ethnical violence especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also based on the classification of society that Chinatown is the "headquarters" of the ethnic Chinese living. Furthermore, Anderson (1987, p. 584) said that Chinatown has received legitimacy from government agencies and the public, therefore the term of "racial classification" - Chinese, has become a racial ideology and a cognitive category in society. Thus, this racial classification can also be a strong reason for Chinatown to be an object of ethnical violence during the pandemic. Hereafter, it has led to the number of racism and acts of discrimination against ethnic Chinese to the emergence of the phenomenon of Asian hates in the US.

The pandemic has caused many adverse impacts on the order of world life such as health, economy, education and social life. The increase in the number of cases of racial and ethnic violations in the US during the pandemic has illustrated that the international cultural and social policy response is very important. This policy responses become prominent due to three reasons: to protect the right, to respect the right and to fulfil the right (Ghanea, 2012). Protecting the right means state authorities or non-state actors must be able to protect the right of people by generating laws to prevent violations of rights, meanwhile respecting the right means non-interfering in the right's affairs, and fulfilling every right means state authority or non-state actors must take steps and procedures so people can enjoy their right. Negative stigma and social stereotypes that cause acts of violence, racial/ethnic discrimination against will never be justified. Therefore, social and cultural policies should be able to protect, to respect and fulfil the right of the people, including ethnic Chinese who are in Chinatown in the US. After all,

Chinatown is a location that is very vulnerable to acts of ethnic abuse and racial discrimination during the pandemic (Tang, 2022). Therefore, through international cultural and social policy (ICSP) as well as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the conceptual framework, this research will examine the alternative strategy in facing the challenge of increasing cases of ethnic Chinese and Chinatown violations in the US.

## **2. Conceptual Framework**

### **2.1 International Cultural and Social Policy**

International cultural and social policy (ICSP) is a term to describe the interrelationship of a cultural and social policy. Oorschot (2007, p. 129) said that ICSP is closely related to the process of globalization due to the adaptation concept of welfare states is actually a process of globalizing cultural rationalization. Oorschot (2007, p. 129) also argued that the policy interrelation between culture and society exists not only at the macro level (international culture towards social policy) but also at the micro level such as people-to-people interactions. This can be meant that micro-level interaction can be through the interaction of immigrants. They can exert a cultural influence on social policies in the countries they visit. For example, the history of the emergence of Chinatown which began with the immigration of the Chinese people to all corners of the world.

Lindström & Ekholm (2021, p. 958) reveal that ICSP is the key to certain government rationality in determining the contemporary welfare state. They mentioned that there has been a tendency to use cultural instruments to achieve other interests since the late 1970s. This means that the use of cultural instruments as a means to achieve an interest has existed for decades. This can also be interpreted that the correlation of culture with social policy as a unified instrument that can be used in the interests of politics and the welfare of the state. Hence it is further convinced by Gray's statement (2007, p. 209), he believes that part of the general commodification process and social policy of a country can be understood through the instrumental use of cultural practices. Meanwhile, Nisbett (2013, p. 516) sees this phenomenon as a natural feature of cultural practice.

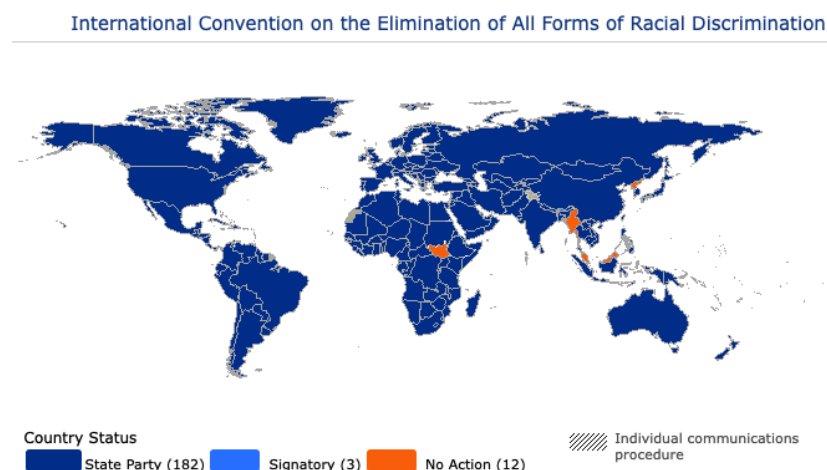
The US as a country that adheres to the notion of modern and liberal society views ICSP as a force to operate the liberal society. It needs subtle forms shaping the conduct including the actions, behaviours, wills, and subjective. On the contrary, it should avoid the acts of coercion and damage. In short, voluntary participation in this matter is prominent (Lindström & Ekholm, 2021, p. 955). Furthermore, Villadsen (2007, p. 311) assumed that ICSP is part of the neo-philanthropy of government rationality so that it has four recurring objectives including: first, morality, responsibility and willpower of individuals as the objective of a governing intervention; second, the distribution of the aid and supports should be allocated correctly and directly to those deemed in need; third, it should be a moral community that involves the integrated individuals; and fourth, the help and support assistance should be able to create the recipients to be independent. Through this concept, this research will examine the responses of

ICSP as an instrument to the raises of ethnical violence in Chinatown across the US.

## 2.2 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) is a convention with three parts and twenty-five articles. Its mission is to combat all forms of discrimination based on race, sex, language, religion, color or ethnicity (Ghanea, 2013, p. 935). ICERD was ratified by the United Nations (UN) in 1965 and entered into force in 1969. In addition, from its inception to the present, ICERD has reached the age of 60 years.

ICERD clearly states that the convention or agreement of the country is to eliminate discrimination in a country. The provisions of ICERD are legally binding on all countries that accept the treaty. Each country is responsible for ensuring and implementing all the requirements of the convention (Keane, 2020, p. 254). The rule in implementing the convention is the establishment of a Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), which is responsible for bringing together race and non-discrimination. As of the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, 182 countries have become members of ICERD (state party) including US, 3 countries with the signatory status, and 12 countries with no action (ONHCR, 2022). Countries that have ratified ICERD have shown considerable effort to refrain from any kind of discrimination, including racial discrimination by persons, groups or organizations, taking special measures to protect the poor, as well as periodic implementation reports. This can be realized because every agreement in ICERD is binding on member countries. Before ratifying this convention, a member country must ensure that its national policies will not conflict with the substance of the agreement in ICERD when implemented.



**Figure 1.** ICERD & Country Status (ONHCR, 2022)

In addition, to examine the case of Chinatown and the rises of ethnical violence, we will use the ICERD part 1, article 1.1 regarding the definition of racial discrimination, and article 2, 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, and 1e about the responses of government toward racial discrimination.

### **3. Research Methodology**

The method for this research is descriptive-qualitative. This research method describes a situation based on existing facts (Ikbar, 2014, p. 18). With this method, this research will focus on observing events based on data sources and explanations for these events. The impact of this method on this research is an explanation of comprehensive description and hypothesis about how the COVID-19 affected the rise of ethnical violence in Chinatown across the US and the responses of international cultural and social policy (Syandidawati, 2020).

This type of research aims to analyze, describe, and summarize a situation by collecting various data and credible sources such as books, journals, interviews or reports from observations in the field (Bahri, Abrar, & Anggriani, 2017, p. 291). This method is a technique to obtain data and facts, which have qualitative characteristics. It is further to explain the Chinatown and the rise of ethnical violence after the pandemic in the US. Furthermore, through this method, the research will also describe how the responses of international cultural and social policy towards the increase of ethnical violence and the faith of Chinatown after the pandemic in the US.

### **4. Result and Discussion**

#### **4.1 The History of Chinatown: A Reflective image before pandemic**

Chinatown is a residential area inhabited by Chinese people. This settlement shows the bonds of a group through various aspects such as cultural, economic, geographical, and linguistic similarities which then form a large group or community (Pbs.org). Hence, Ang (2020, p. 1371-1372) defines Chinatown as "Chinese enclaves" – a settlement of Chinese to create a home far from home. Hence, the fact that Chinatown has now spread all over the world shows how China is moving forward. In addition, Shambaugh (2013, p. 4) has stated that China needs only 2 decades to move from periphery to the centre of international systems. The spread of the Chinese community has been around for hundreds of years. It started in the 3rd century, where the Chinese people who generally worked as traders made a large-scale migration. The first area to be addressed was Southeast Asia, they started by navigating the Malay Peninsula which later occupied three areas, namely Batavia, Semarang, and Surabaya (Oktaria & Kurniawan, 2021, p. 2-4). This was confirmed by the Head of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of Indonesia and an archaeologist named Professor Agus Aris Munandar who said that the settlement appeared alongside the Chinese diaspora who worked as traders (CNN Indonesia, 2021).

More precisely in the 1840s, there was a very big disaster in China that caused the destruction of Chinese society. The occurrence of many rebellions carried out by farmers and increasing hunger rates caused many Chinese people to try to make a fortune (Pbs.org). They eventually migrated to various countries in search of work. Furthermore, in these countries, ethnic Chinese often get racial discrimination, which encourages them to gather in the same area. The racial discrimination can be in any forms including injustice/inequity on getting

witnesses in court, prohibition to marrying non-group members, and unfairness opportunity to work in institutions (Pbs.org).

Accordingly, the spread of Chinese immigrants in all across the world has created the Chinatowns in every single edge of the city. The Chinatowns have various sense of Chinese traditions and are becoming the main attraction. Among the many scattered Chinatowns, there are 35 Chinatowns from 19 countries which are included in the official Chinatown website. The scattered numbers came from Southeast Asia, Europe, and America. First, there are 16 Chinatowns from 11 countries including Indonesia, Australia, Japan, Buma, Malaysia, Laos, Singapore, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, and Thailand. Furthermore, 12 Chinatowns spread across Europe consisting of 5 countries such as Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Greece, and France. While in America there are 7 Chinatowns over the 3 countries including the United States, Argentina, and Canada (Chinatownlogy, 2022).

Hence, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Chinatowns in US was emerged due to the massive immigration from China to the part of US and Europe (Muhammad, 2020). Accordingly, US needed a massive of labours for the development project at the moment. Moreover, in the mid-1800s there was a political economic chaos in China which caused many Chinese people to flee and leave the mainland (Muhammad, 2020). San Francisco was the first destination for Chinese immigrants. Notably, San Francisco was known as an unofficial entry point for immigrants. Furthermore, the next destination was California Gold Rush. Due to the mining sector began to shrink, they changing of labour was occurred – from the labour in mining sector to domestic servants and farm laborers. On the contrary, in 1860, they worked a lot on the Transcontinental Railroad due to the first railroad construction in the US (Muhammad, 2020).

However, the presence of Chinese immigrants who worked in US has caused the hates among the US citizens. The Chinese immigrants were willing to be paid cheaper than the local (US) labours, and it has caused the hates, tensions and discrimination to them. Moreover, in 1879 to 1896, there were many riots and fights that caused many immigrants to die (Muhammad, 2020). This incident has consequently closed many Chinatowns in US, and the prohibition of ethnic Chinese. Nevertheless, in 1943 during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Chinatown was reopened along with the revocation of the China Exclusion Act. Since then, Chinese immigrants have been legally obtained a permission to settle in US.

In US, there are 4 iconic Chinatowns including the Chinatowns in the cities of Atlanta, New York, San Francisco, and Washington. These four Chinatowns are the most favorite to visit by tourists (Zhang, 2014). The traditional and strong sense of Chinese culture in Chinatowns have become the key attractions for tourism. For instance, on weekends many Chinese people gather in the middle of the Portsmouth Square to spend time together such as playing chess. Hence, there are also attractive temples, restaurants, and shops selling various knick-knacks or souvenirs for the tourists. The Chinatown has become the place to run business and industries. Moreover, the establishment of Chinatown mini parade, the Lunar

New Year Parade in New York on every Chinese holiday has become a fascinating parade of year. This parade was initiated by Better Chinatown USA, an organization founded in 2001 which consists of a group of volunteers who are dedicated to developing Chinatown in New York, to organize activities and events that can increase the closeness between the people in Chinatown and Asian-Americans (USA). In addition, there are also other attractive events such as the Chinatown Independence Festival, sports competitions, and many more. Unfortunately, most of the activities and events are postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **4.2 The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic to Chinatown and the Rise of Ethnical Violence in the US**

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the Chinatown economies of several American cities throughout 2020 which should have been a busiest year due to celebrations at the center of Asian-Americans, while unfortunately their businesses and economics should experience a decline (Bliss, 2020). This business and economic decline was due to the raise of fears and xenophobia across US towards ethnic Chinese. Moreover, the spread of COVID-19 on March in all across US has worsen the situation – the public health restrictions have come into force by closing restaurants, beauty salons, temples, shops and tourism spots. In accordance with the data by the Yelp Inc website said that the business flows in Chinatowns – in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Houston, and Chicago have lost consumer interest in the last 10 months from February to November. The business sector includes the restaurant, bar and retailer. This “loosing consumer interest” has left the gap between Chinatowns and the metropolitan area, and indeed caused the massive loss of the urban economy (Hartke, 2022).

Chinatown, the area outside China and is a home to a number of Chinese citizens, arts and cultural organizations in US. Hence, Chinatown has become an attraction for tourists. In addition, Chinatown has also a partnership with Wells Fargo Bank, Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative and many more due to their increased business income. Nonetheless, they are now facing two main problems such as: closures due to the pandemic and the increasing of anti-Asian racist attacks (Learningenglish.voanews, 2022). A significant decrease in visitors to Chinatown due to the pandemic has reached more than 50%. Yet, around 50% of Chinatown's businesses are unlikely to survive during the pandemic.

The mass restaurant closures in Chinatown has suffered greatly for the residents. During the pandemic, Chinatown was entitled "ghost town" due to the disappearance of office workers, the massive closure of the restaurants, bars and shops. The loss of this business is very detrimental to residents, as some of the Chinatowns face economic challenges in the long term – a decade of decline. 2020 and 2021 are the most challenging years for Chinatowns in US. Nevertheless, it is also the opportunity to create new business strategy, since the pandemic they have raised almost 90% of online orders. In addition, several Chinatowns have also benefited from aid campaigns such as a \$2.9 million emergency fund for loans



to small businesses led by the Renaissance Economic Development Corporation in New York city (Ksltv, 2022). Although it seems impossible to what it used to be before the pandemic, yet some tourists are now slowly returning to Chinatowns, and it is indeed a good insight.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected to the rise of ethnical violence and racial discrimination in US. The acts of ethnical violence and racial discrimination to Asian-Americans and Chinese are various including racial and ethnical slurs, verbal harassment, spat on, workplace discrimination, physical attacks, hates on social media, barred from transportation and public services etc (Borja, Jeung, Horse, etc, 2020). It has caused the spread of anti-Asia and harmed the public security – secure of fears and racial discrimination (Liputan6, 2020).

<b>Type of discrimination</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Verbal Harassment	82.7%
Shunning	16.5%
Physical Assault	5.2%
Cough/Spat On	1.6%
Online	8.6%
Workplace Discrimination	4.2%
Barred from Establishment	1.6%
Barred from Transportation	0.6%

**Table 1.** Type of racial discrimination (A3PCON, 2020)

In 2020 the United States Department of Justice recorded the number of hate crimes in which 62% of offenders were provoked by race, ethnicity, and ancestry. And also showing anti-Asian hatred is increasing by 77% in all parts of the United States (Sergazina, 2022). Thousands of cases – racial and ethnical violence and discriminations have been reported, they were spat on, verbally abused, physically assaulted and unfairly treated (Liputan6, 2020). In addition, FBI predicted that racial cases against people of Asian descent would increase during the pandemic. Moreover, the United Nations (UN) stated that people of Asian-American descent are really vulnerable in this situation (BBC, 2021). In 2020, hate crime officers in New York City reported that there are about 27 incidents including the racial discrimination and ethnical violence. It's nine times increases from last year particularly in Oakland, New Yorks and California. Furthermore, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism, hatred for anti-Asian people increased by 1200%, reported by CBS News the Los Angeles area racial hatred for Asian-Americans increased and reached 115% (Rahma, 2021).

The rising of anti-Asian racism was the backlash of Donald Trump's statement for calling COVID-19 as the "Chinese Virus". Around 56% of the cases that occurred the perpetrators also used anti-Chinese speech by blaming China for spreading the COVID-19 virus and they also insulted the Chinese diet (Cheung,

Feng & Deng, 2020). Asian-Americans have been severely impacted by this anti-Asian rhetoric by Trump. For example, in California, the elderly was beaten with iron rods, and teenagers were physically assaulted. In Texas two- and six-year-olds were stabbed in supermarkets, the perpetrators who felt they stabbed the two children admitted that they are Chinese people who transmit the COVID-19 virus to many people (Cheung, Feng & Deng, 2020). Some also have reported that due to ethnic differences – notably Asian or Chinese, they were denied in various public services such as transportation, hotel rooms, etc. Trump's rhetoric has also worsened US racial relations and security by increasing violence against Asian-American ethnic groups.

In accordance with the data from Asian Pacific and Planning Council, there at least 5 content analysis of xenophobic comments regarding the Asian-hates and anti-China. First, 37.5% of incident reports including virulent animosity towards Chinese Americans involves profanity and verbal taunts. Second, 31.7% of the perpetrators Scapegoating of China for the spread of COVID-19 by blaming China or Chinese people as the source of the disease. Third, 20.3% anti-immigrant nationalism demanded Asian Americans to back to China. Fourth, 17.5% implies the implicit association between COVID-19 and China by Parroting of the term, “Chinese virus”. Fifth, 12.6% racist depicts that orientalist or Chinese people are dirty, diseased, and having strange dietary habits (Borja, Jeung, Horse, etc, 2020, p. 1). In addition, 87.8% the reason for discrimination of anti-China rhetoric was race, followed by 77.1% of ethnicity. Hence, people aged 20-40 years old are really vulnerable to get discrimination with those in 30s reported as the most vulnerable ones (57.1%). Meanwhile 70.6% victims of the racial discrimination were female (Borja, Jeung, Horse, etc, 2020, p. 5-6).

<b>Anti-China Rhetoric Report</b>	
<b>Reasons for discrimination</b>	- Race (87.8%) - Ethnicity (77.1%)
<b>Age</b>	- 30s (57.1%) - 20s (38.6%) - 40s (32.8%) - 50-60s (14.3%) - 10s (6.3%) - 70s (2.1%)
<b>Gender</b>	- Female (70.6%) - Male (28.4%) - Trans & Gender Nonbinary (1.0%)

**Table 2.** Anti-China rhetoric report (A3PCON, 2020)

### 4.3 The Response of International Cultural and Social Policy: An Implementation of ICERD Article 2, 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e

The rise of ethnical violence in US due to COVID-19 has got many attentions all across the world. However, as the backlash of ICSP, it is closely related to the process of globalizing cultural rationalization (Oorschot, 2007, p. 129). This means that, the attentions can be meant as the international society responses to demolish the racial discrimination as well as the ethnical violence. In accordance with the ICERD article 1, that term racial discrimination is referred to any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin, therefore the Asian-hates and anti-China in the US are classified racial discrimination (ONHCR). Furthermore, those acts – racial-based distinction, exclusion, restriction have the effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life. In accordance with this, the anti-Asian rhetoric by Trump on his tweet and speech by calling COVID-19 as the "Chinese Virus" is indeed ethnical violence. To analyze this phenomenon, we will use the ICSP in the contexts of modern and liberal society views as a force to operate the liberal society in US within four recurring objectives including: first, morality, responsibility and willpower of individuals as the objective of a governing intervention; second, the distribution of the aid and supports should be allocated correctly and directly to those deemed in need; third, it should be a moral community that involves the integrated individuals; and fourth, the help and support assistance should be able to create the recipients to be independent (Villadsen, 2007, p. 311).

Recurring objectives		The responses	
Governing objective	intervention	-	Signed national policy "racial equality" Executive order "Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States"
Aids & supports distribution		-	\$2.9 million emergency fund for loans
Moral community		-	Social media campaign
Independent community by the right support assistance		-	Support assistance from Renaissance Economic Development Corporation

**Table 3.** ICSP responses to ethnical violence in US

According to the table above, the intervention of US government has been really matters to encounter the situation. Asian-Americans blame Trump for overestimating the dangers of hate crime by talking too much about the virus as "Chinese virus". Therefore, the victory of President Joe Biden signing off on his national policy of "racial equality" in an effort to eliminate racism that has been on the rise in the US. Biden attempted to restore racism in the US by issuing an

executive order, namely “Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States” which was passed on January 26, 2021 (Ma’arif, Muhadjir, Jose, 2021, p. 18-19). Crimes and racial hatred against ethnic Asian-Americans. The memorandum mentioned by Joe Biden contains three main parts, firstly the role of the government to prevent xenophobia, racism, and intolerance towards all ethnicities, whether Asian-American or those from the Pacific Islands, in this first statement Biden strongly condemns acts of racism and etc. Second, assigning the health and humanitarian departments to implement the best solutions to reduce xenophobia and prevent the use of language that leads to racial discrimination during the covid-19 pandemic. Third, the duties and authorities of institutions related to issues of racism, xenophobia, and also intolerance to Asian-American groups, and the policies made by Joe Biden received a very good response from the AAPI, as well as the exclusive order that Biden issued trying to achieve racial equality for all. Asian groups, because at the beginning of the pandemic, Asian-American minority groups had become targets of hate crimes and also the Asian-American community.

In addition, as reported that several Chinatowns have also benefited from aid campaigns such as a \$2.9 million emergency fund for loans to small businesses led by the Renaissance Economic Development Corporation in New York City (Ktslv, 2022). This aid has certainly impacted on the Chinatowns recovery during the pandemic. Align with the recurring objectives to ensure that the aids and supports should able to create the community more independent, the emergency fund has indeed helped the business owner in Chinatowns to recover from the loss and declined, furthermore it will indeed impact for the economy recovery in the city.

Lawmakers, community groups and activists were also involved to counter the anti-Asian attacks by campaigning on social media as demonstrations against the public. In May, America’s new president Joe Biden recently signed a bill dealing with hate and hate crimes in the time of COVID-19 in an effort to stop anti-Asian hate crimes and crimes (Ma’arif, Muhadjir, Jose, 2021, p. 18-19). The campaign in social media has impacted on raising awareness of the public to stop and condemn all acts of racial discrimination and ethnical violence (Ma’arif, Muhadjir, Jose, 2021, p. 14). The trending of #StopAsianHate in social media has increased people awareness to stop discriminate Asian as well as Chinese as the cause of the pandemic (Putsanra, 2021). In addition, the campaign of “I still believe in our city” by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, multidisciplinary artist has got many attentions (NYC, 2020). The campaign was cooperated with the NYC Commission on Human Rights and supported by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and purposely to raise the public awareness and to combat anti-Asian discrimination including verbal harassment, physical assault and bias as a result of COVID-19. There also other campaigns to combat the racial discrimination particularly anti-Asian and Chinese during pandemic such as “We are more campaign”, “We are one New York”, “Fight fear with facts” etc. The campaign was really fascinating due to all those campaigns were available in 21 languages (NYC, 2020).

In addition, prior to the implementation of ICERD article 2, 1a-e, the responses of US government including the domestic policy should be aligned with the substance of an article. Moreover, US has ratified and become state party of The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. As stated in the convention (ONHCR), that each state party must condemn all racial discrimination in all forms by undertaking all appropriate means and policy to eliminate the racial discriminations. Therefore, it doesn't appropriate for Trump as the President of US to speak nonsense and sensitive terms on his speech and tweets regarding the COVID-19 pandemic that can cause or worsen the racial discrimination in US. Furthermore, the act of Trump has definitely violated the ICERD article 2 1a, 1b and 1d. First, he has violated article 2 1a that state party including him as a President must not act or practice the racial discrimination against group of people. Calling COVID-19 as Chinese virus is indeed violation. Second, he has violated article 2 1b which stated that state party including him as a President must not support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations. His action has truly biased and indirectly encourage the rise of hates and xenophobia towards Asian and Chinese – and it is really a violation. Third, he has violated the article 2 1d that stated each state party including him as a President should prohibit and terminate the racial discrimination by all appropriate means. Meanwhile, he started the rise of racial discrimination in US by calling COVID-19 as the Chinese virus.

<b>Trump's violation over ICERD</b>	
Article 2, 1a	President must not act or practice the racial discrimination against group of people.
Article 2, 1b	President must not support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations
Article 2, 1d	President should prohibit and terminate the racial discrimination by all appropriate means.

**Table 4.** Trump's violation over ICERD

Nevertheless, the victory of Biden has changed the situation to be better. As a country that ratified the ICERD, US further responses the convention by several actions. First, signing off on his national policy of "racial equality" in an effort to eliminate racism that has been on the rise in the US (Ma'arif, Muhadjir, Jose, 2021, p. 16-17). Second, issuing an executive order, namely "Condemning and Combating Racism, Xenophobia, and Intolerance Against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States". Third, assigning the role of the government to prevent xenophobia, racism, and intolerance towards all ethnicities. Fourth, assigning the health and humanitarian departments to implement the best solutions to reduce xenophobia and prevent the use of language that leads to

racial discrimination during the covid-19 pandemic. Fifth, assigning and ensuring the conduct of duties and authorities of institutions related to issues of racism, xenophobia, and also intolerance to Asian-American groups (Ma'arif, Muhadjir, Jose, 2021, p. 18-19).

## 5. Conclusion

The rise of ethnical violence and racial discrimination in the US have worsen the situation of Chinatowns during the pandemic. It has been very serious situation regardless of the health breaking situation. This research has shown that the cause of the rise of ethnical violence and racial discrimination was the xenophobic acts by Trump on his speech and tweets. This is indeed violation of The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. We criticize Trump's statement for calling COVID-19 as Chinese's virus as the source of racial discrimination against group of people. In addition, it is inappropriate for him as a President to speak nonsense in public areas.

Furthermore, the ICSP as the response framework regarding the rise of ethnical violence and racial discrimination in the US has shown that the process of governing rationality including the role of voluntary participation is prominent to the notion of modern and liberal society as the characteristic welfare state in the US. Therefore, the policy reformation that aligns to the values of ICERD can be an alternative strategy to overcome the racial discrimination. In addition, the responses of US after the victory of Biden have shown a better change in terms of eliminating the racial discrimination and ethnical violence by assigning many policies and engaging stakeholders including institutions, non-government organization and so on. Hence, the impact of the racial discrimination has also caused Asian and Chinatowns as much more vulnerable. This means, the intercorrelation between the culture as instrument in the process of globalization and the social policy including the role of government rationality has become necessary.

Nevertheless, we finally argue that the relations between culture and social should align to the process of government rationality. This means any action of government is seen important especially in discussing a massive topic such COVID-19 pandemic in the public forum. Therefore, this research also means to recommend that leaders, government and stakeholders should value the nature of cultural and social policy as well as the international conventions to respond the global phenomenon including racial discrimination and ethnical violence.

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