DISCRIMINATED IMMIGRANTS

by:
Cheryl G. Cruz

Recently, news broke out regarding various incidents of Asian descents getting beaten, harassed, or discriminated in the United States of America. It was reported that among the victims are Filipino-American citizens in that country who were subjected to violence leading to serious injuries such that of a woman who was hit by a box cutter in her face, she was hospitalized. A certain report also cited a Thai national dying after being shoved to the ground. Chinese people are the ones suffering the most since the origin of the coronavirus is China. This is alarming considering how hate crimes has blown away the simple and silent life of those immigrants in the US. Their cultures are being disrespected and there is nothing being harbored but hate and fear for the victims. This has to stop before it gets even worse. Being an immigrant does not give the merit to the natives of a country to put fire onto the former's life for immigration is not finding trouble but financial stability, good life, and better education.

Gallardo and Batalova (2020) in their Migration Policy report revealed that there are more than 2 million Filipinos living in the US in 2018 and is growing in number each year. In comparison, it has quadrupled since late 19th century where there were at least half a million of the population in the said country. Immigration has been among the practices among Filipinos since then. As a matter of fact, Filipinos are scattered all around the globe thus creating a nest of different culture. Some look for opportunities to better their lives and some have founded their own families abroad. Just like Filipino people, there are millions of Asians who are migrating to other countries for the same purpose and just when they are rooting for chances to become well, hate crimes are challenging them.
Hate crime is nothing new in the US considering the high number of cases being listed annually. In 2020 alone, there were about 4,000 incidents of Asian racism, violence, and discriminations which were reported. Among the worst scenarios was the shooting in a spa where most of the victims were Asian nationals. Sadly, the problem still persists despite the efforts and actions by the authorities. This is not distant from what the Black Americans are experiencing every time they try to get out to get a life.

There is a very wide gap between hate and being opportunistic of people. There is no logic which could justify the hate being created by people to others who were not into finding problems and troubles. Immigration does not have to be that way. Immigration opens a lot of opportunities to people who are seeking betterment in their lives. Better living conditions, more opportunities for work, best education (Canadian Government, 2016)...these are the main purposes of immigration and race, culture, or ethnicity must not invalidate those.

References:


Yam, K. (2021). There were 3,800 anti-Asian racist incidents, mostly against women, in past year. Retrieved April 14, 2021 from nbcnews.com