

ASIAN AMERICANS FORM NATIONAL NETWORK TO SUPPORT  
JESSE JACKSON FOR PRESIDENT

Joint Statement by:

New York Asians for Jesse Jackson  
Massachusetts Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson  
Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson (San Francisco)  
Asian/Pacific Americans for Jesse Jackson (Los Angeles)  
Asian and Pacific Islanders for Jesse Jackson (San Diego)

The candidacy of the Reverend Jesse Jackson for President of the United States, and the "Rainbow Coalition" it has inspired, has touched Asian Americans throughout the country. From coast to coast, Asian Americans are forming committees to support Jesse Jackson, taking his campaign into the Asian communities and contributing the Asian perspective to the Rainbow Coalition.

Asian Americans have a lot at stake in defeating Ronald Reagan this November. Reagan's policies have been a disaster for the American people, including Asian Americans. Reaganomics has left 14 million people unemployed and given us a record \$180 billion federal deficit. Civil rights, voting rights, women's rights, and affirmative action are all under attack. The arms race with the Soviet Union has intensified, and U.S. military intervention has been revived in Grenada and threatens Central America.

Asian people have suffered from greater racist violence, attacks on bilingual education and immigration restrictions. Reagan has also revived the two-China policy and continues to give aid to the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines. Clearly, if we Asian Americans want to move forward and win our equal rights, Ronald Reagan must be defeated.

We support the candidacy of Jesse Jackson for President because we believe it is the best vehicle for defeating Reagan and building a movement for peace and social justice. We believe Jackson has the most progressive stands of all the candidates. He has raised issues that otherwise would not be discussed in this election, such as voting rights, racial injustice, the needs of the poor, women's equality, and treatment of the third world.

Jackson's campaign has also brought tens of thousands of previously disenfranchised people into the electorate and helped join us together around common goals. Jackson's campaign gives us the opportunity to make our voices heard within the Democratic Party and the presidential elections.



As Asian Americans we support Jackson's candidacy also because it is helping to build unity among Blacks, Asians and other minorities. We Asians have benefitted from the Black civil rights struggle and today the Reverend Jackson's challenge for the presidency raises the hopes of all minority people striving for equality.

Lastly, we believe that within Jesse Jackson's "Rainbow Coalition" we are welcome as equals. The Jackson campaign has encouraged our contributions to developing Jackson's Asian platform. For example, Jackson has endorsed the position calling for redress and reparations for 120,000 Japanese Americans incarcerated during WW II, as formulated by Concerned Japanese Americans (New York) and the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations.

In New York, the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Massachusetts, Asian Americans have formed committees and joined the Jackson campaign. Our committees include Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Philipino Americans from over 75 community, civic, student, labor, women's, professional, and cultural organizations. We are doing fundraising, education, and campaigning in our state primaries.

We hereby announce our joining together in a NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN NETWORK FOR JESSE JACKSON. By coordinating our efforts on a national level, we will give even greater presence to Asian American support for Jesse Jackson. Our committees will be working within the national Jackson for President campaign structure. We hope to help strengthen that structure by expanding the base of support among Asians and by further contributing an understanding of Asian issues to the Jackson campaign.

Signed,

Sharon Hom & Leslee Inaba Wong  
Co-chairs, New York Asians for Jesse Jackson

Ying Lee Kelley & Lyle Wing  
Co-chairs, Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson (San Francisco)

Michael Liu & Regina Lee  
Co-chairs, Massachusetts Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson

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March 9, 1984