# Vice President Kamala Harris Sparks Controversy with Profanity at Legislative Leadership Summit



On May 13, 2024, Vice President Kamala Harris made headlines by using profanity during a public speaking event in Washington, D.C. Harris was participating in a roundtable discussion at the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Legislative Leadership Summit, which was part of the events celebrating May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

During the discussion, moderated by actor and comedian Jimmy O. Yang, Harris was asked about her role as the first vice president of Asian descent. In her response, she gave advice to young Asian Americans, urging them to persistently pursue opportunities even when facing resistance. She stated, "Sometimes people will open the door for you and leave it open, and sometimes they won’t— and then you need to kick that f---ing door down." Her use of profanity, which she immediately acknowledged with a lighthearted apology, was met with applause and laughter from the audience.

This incident occurred during a live-streamed conversation and has been noted as a departure from Harris's usual public speaking style, which typically avoids such language. Her candid remark contrasts with her earlier appearance this month on the Drew Barrymore show, where she had adopted a more reserved demeanor.

Profanity in political rhetoric is not unprecedented. Historical examples include former Vice President Joe Biden and President Donald Trump, both of whom have had notable moments using strong language in public or live settings.

The summit where Harris spoke was focused not only on celebrating heritage but also on addressing serious issues like anti-Asian hate and the responsibilities of being a trailblazer in politics.

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taka35CwSiw> - Corroborates Vice President Kamala Harris using profanity during her speech at the APAICS Summit and her subsequent apology.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0iUCIYhNvo> - Supports the details of Harris's conversation moderated by Jimmy O. Yang and her advice to young Asian Americans.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kamala-harris-f-bomb-asian-americans-jimmy-o-yang/> - Provides context on the event, Harris's role as the first vice president of Asian descent, and her message during the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Legislative Leadership Summit.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kamala-harris-f-bomb-asian-americans-jimmy-o-yang/> - Details the celebration of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and the focus of the summit.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taka35CwSiw> - Describes the audience's reaction to Harris's use of profanity and her lighthearted apology.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kamala-harris-f-bomb-asian-americans-jimmy-o-yang/> - Contrasts Harris's usual public speaking style with her candid remark during the summit.
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0iUCIYhNvo> - Highlights Jimmy O. Yang's role in moderating the discussion and the audience's positive response.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kamala-harris-f-bomb-asian-americans-jimmy-o-yang/> - Mentions historical examples of other political figures, such as Joe Biden and Donald Trump, using strong language in public settings.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/kamala-harris-f-bomb-asian-americans-jimmy-o-yang/> - Discusses the summit's focus on addressing serious issues like anti-Asian hate and the responsibilities of being a trailblazer in politics.