



BLACK LIVES MATTER

THE WORLD IS WATCHING

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

STATEMENT DENOUNCING RISING VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES AGAINST THE ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

March 17, 2021

We are deeply disturbed and outraged by rising violence and incidences of hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) across the United States and people of Asian descent around the world. Violence, xenophobia, discrimination, and animosity against AAPIs have increased significantly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, fanned by stereotypes and dangerous rhetoric that builds upon a history of anti-Asian racism.

On March 16, eight people were murdered across northern Georgia, of whom six were of Asian descent and all but one were women. We mourn this heartbreaking loss and strongly condemn the racist sentiments that motivated this act of violence. Stop AAPI Hate has documented 3,800 reports of anti-Asian violence and verbal attacks from March 2020 to February 2021, though actual numbers are unquestionably higher due to under-reporting. Asian-owned businesses have suffered disproportionately throughout the pandemic due to stigma and discriminatory claims about COVID-19 transmission through food and other product sales. We are worried for the collective mental health of AAPIs caught between dual forces of rising discrimination and the universal struggle of living through a pandemic.

We are also conscious of the intersectional nature of anti-Asian discrimination. Asian women and elderly AAPIs have been disproportionately targeted by acts of violence and harassment due to stereotypes, sexism, and ageism. AAPIs who perform essential yet low-paid work in the service industry are particularly vulnerable to both the ravages of COVID-19 and directly experiencing physical and verbal assault. First-generation AAPIs and those who have recently immigrated are often excluded from public support by access barriers and lack of resources. The model minority myth masks the plight of ethnic subgroups within the AAPI community, who face significant



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economic struggles while being unable to access support due to both lack of public awareness and language barriers.

We condemn anti-Asian violence and discrimination in the harshest possible terms. There is a [strong history of solidarity](#) and shared activism between the Black and AAPI communities that is often erased by white nationalist attempts to drive wedges between minority groups with common interests. Liberation must be pursued collectively, or it is not liberation at all.

The World Is Watching stands in solidarity with the AAPI community. We encourage our supporters and allies to do the same and [take action here](#).