

March 23, 2021

We, the undersigned Faculty and Staff of the Department of African American and African Studies at the University of California, Davis declare our support for, and solidarity with, the Asian American and Pacific Island (AAPI) community in light of the murder of 8 people, 6 of whom were women of Asian descent, in the Atlanta area of the state of Georgia on March 16, 2021.

Last week's mass murder is but one incident in a long history of anti-Asian sentiment, exclusion, scapegoating, expulsion, internment, and racialized gender-based (and other types of) violence across the United States. These include the Chinese Massacre of 1871 in Los Angeles, the 1875 Page Act, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the US-Japanese Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907, the Asiatic Exclusion League advocating the barring of Indian, Japanese and Korean migration (inaugurated in 1908), the Internment of citizens of Japanese descent during WWII, the murder of Chinese-American citizen Vincent Chin on June 19, 1982, the targeting of South Asian and Arab individuals immediately following the attacks on the US on September 11, 2001, and more recently, the increasing number of hate-incidents and/or crimes during the caustic political climate that was made even more vicious during the global pandemic of 2020. And, most recently, the Antioch police killing of 30-year-old Filipino American Angelo Quinto here in the Bay Area.

**According to the [National Report of the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center](#), 3795 incidents between March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021.**

We stand with our brothers and sisters in condemning any and all acts of bias from any and all sources against the AAPI community (whether they are designated as hate "incidents" or hate "crimes"). We call on public officials in the state of Georgia as well as in communities across the United States to demonstrate that they take these occurrences seriously by providing increased protection to members of the AAPI community, providing whatever they may request to help ensure their safety and sense of security.

**We believe that the murders of March 16, 2021 should be named and prosecuted as hate crimes.** Therefore, we specifically call on Georgia political officials and the courts to prosecute these most recent crimes directed at members of the AAPI community to the fullest extent of the law, not allowing white supremacist perpetrators to craft the legal narrative that would then determine the ensuing prosecutorial process.

As an ethnic studies department at the University of California, Davis, we teach students and work with colleagues from a broad diversity of backgrounds and identities. What's more, we share a history with the Department of Asian American Studies as well as other departments in Hart Hall where we are all located as a community. In the protests of the summer of 2020 following the police killing of George Floyd (as well as Ahmaud Arbury, Breonna Taylor, and others) we felt the support of this campus community as we witnessed the outpouring of widespread, worldwide solidarity and support for Black Lives. Accordingly, we voice our unequivocal support for Asian American and Pacific Islander members of our campus community and for the AAPI community across the United States.

In Solidarity,

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