



Content warnings: Murder, Atlanta shooting, Mass shooting, Misogyny, Hate crimes against Asians, Death

Dear APASA community,

This is probably one of the most difficult emails our board members have had to write. We carry sadness, frustration, anger, and heaviness in our hearts as we think about the [8 people killed, especially the 6 women of Asian descent, in the Atlanta-area spa shootings](#) on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

We keep all 8 victims and their loved ones in our hearts. We remember their [stories](#). Out of respect to the victims and their families, and at their request, we will not be sharing names at this time. In the [reports](#) detailed by Korean and Chinese news outlets, some of these individuals were elders, mothers, and grandmothers. We also hope for the rapid recovery and healing of another community member who was injured in the shooting.

We are grieving and processing all of this heavy pain, anger, and fear. Community: know that you are not alone in whatever shock, outrage, heartache, or any other feelings that come up for you in response to these tragic acts of violence. Allow yourself to feel and grieve. Reach out to us and to each other for support.

“The only way to survive is by taking care of one another.” -- Grace Lee Boggs

To Asian Womxn & Femmes:

[To be an Asian woman in America](#) means we are simultaneously hyper visible and invisible. We know the hurt this comes with. We see you. We love you. We believe you. We deserve protection.

While officials are not confirming that these murders were racially motivated, many in our community know that this act was “[the result of a] culture of normalizing harm against poor and working class women, immigrants, and sex workers of color.” ([18 Million Rising](#))

We must further put this into perspective with white supremacy, western imperialism and militarism, capitalism, xenophobia, and misogyny - systems and structures that harm all Queer, Trans, Black, and Indigenous People of Color. We cannot separate what happened from being called “yellow peril,” the passing of the Page Act of 1875 and Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the creation of Japanese internment camps, the Model Minority myth, and so much more. We cannot separate what happened from Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian, and Pacific Islander women



victims and survivors of imperialist violence throughout history and across the globe. We cannot separate what happened from the deportations of undocumented folx, including 33 Vietnamese refugees just this week; the constant attacks on Asian elders; or the murders of our youth by police.

We have been dehumanized over and over again; our livelihoods and forms of survival have been exploited, and we are seen as disposable.

Stop AAPI Hate just released their latest [national report](#) tracking hate incidents against AAPIs during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- “From March 2020 to February 2021, we received a total of 3,795 hate incident reports from individuals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Our data offer proof of the size and scope of the tragedy that is anti-Asian racism and xenophobia in the United States.”
- Based on the national trends:
 - Businesses are the primary site of discrimination at 35.4%
 - 68% of incidents involved verbal harassment
 - Women report hate incidents 2.3 times more than men

UC Davis and our surrounding community are not immune from these statistics and we implore our campus community to reflect deeply on the ways that we interact and engage with AAPI folx at the individual, group, and systemic levels. What implicit biases do you hold? What stereotypes do you perpetuate? When have we challenged ourselves and others? When did you protect and advocate for us? When did you forget to include us?

To reiterate our last letter, we are again sharing calls to action for our AAPI community:

- Make space for ourselves and give permission to other AAPI friends, family, staff, students, and faculty to experience grief and pain. Our emotions are valid.
- Condemn policing as solutions for accountability.
- Report hate incidents on campus [here](#) and nationally [here](#).
- Attend OCA Sacramento's [Actions Not Statements](#) Town Hall Forum on Thursday, March 25: tiny.one/actionsnotstatements
- Commit ourselves to being anti-imperialist AND anti-racist AND to do individual and systems level social justice work with an intersectional lens.

We cannot let white supremacy continue to make us invisible. We deserve to be seen and heard.



Our calls to action for our allies:

- Learn about AAPI histories globally and in the diaspora.
- Confront and condemn anti-Asian racism, xenophobia & hateful speech and actions.
- Challenge the erasure of AAPI people in conversations about racism.
- Actively help dismantle the “black/white binary.”
- Recognize that we are not a monolith or a model minority - and all of our stories and experiences deserve space.
- Donate to relief, care funds and community mutual aid networks, including hard-hit food and food service industries in your areas.
- Check in on your AAPI family, friends, students, and community, including our international Asian community. The attack must be viewed intersectionally and the relationship between racism and immigration can't be ignored.
- Protect and advocate.

APASA affirms our commitment to radical solidarity and radical liberation for all. We will continue to move towards transformative action.

In solidarity and love,

UC Davis Asian Pacific American Systemwide Alliance

Krissy Ocampo, Chair

Kyaw Tha Paw U, Faculty Representative

Paula Hoàng, Communications Chair

Calvin Lee, Member at Large

Roger Moy, Treasurer

Kaila Balancio, Member at Large

Karisa Asato, Programming Chair

Resources:

- Advancing Justice - ATL [Instagram](#) & [Donation Page](#)
- [Tips to Consider when Engaging in Conversations & Actions about Anti-Asian Violence](#), written by Mark Chung Kwan and other folks in ACPA & NASPA.
- [Anti-Asian Violence Resources](#)
- [Bystander Intervention Trainings](#) (dates are being added constantly)
- [Why This Wave of Anti-Asian Racism Feels Different](#)
- [Demands from New York based massage parlor workers](#)
- [Vox Article: The Long History of Anti-Asian Hate in America, Explained](#)
- [YouTube: Chinese Virus: Why Anti-Asian Racism is So Contagious](#)
- [History of Sexual Violence Against Asian Women](#) with AAPI Women Lead Executive Director, Dr. Connie Wun (featured on MSNBC today)
- [Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans](#) with Dr. Erika Lee (streamed today by the House Committee on the Judiciary)