

National Asian Pacific Islander Council
Statement Condemning Anti-Asian Hate
March 31, 2021

In Atlanta, Georgia on March 16, 2021, eight individuals were killed by gunfire, six of whom were women of Asian descent. It was a decisive moment in the growing escalation of anti-Asian attacks in the United States. This moment rendered visible the perpetual violence and erasure of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities in the United States.

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the inflammatory and racist rhetoric has recapitulated the long history of xenophobia and hate toward Asian Americans in our society. We have been collective witnesses to a growing number of attacks on whom we treasure most: our families and the elders in our communities. Over 3800 anti-Asian hate crimes were reported in the last year and such incidents still occur.

In the face of these mounting attacks, we as AAPI community college leaders and educators must take on multiple roles. With great urgency, we must call attention to the violence with clarion voices and hold systemic racism and white supremacy accountable. With an eye towards dismantling xenophobia in the long term, we must ensure that our students have access to the full and accurate history of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. These stories of sacrifices of our ancestors and their numerous contributions to America's nation-building should inform and inspire, not just the next generation of leaders in our AAPI communities, but also the country as a whole.

As our nation continues to confront the legacy of racism and its violent manifestations, the National Asian Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC) calls our leaders and members to action: Unite in solidarity with all Communities of Color and gatherings of allies, so that our students can pursue their American Dreams with renewed imagination and hope.

Together, we mourn our losses now and from times past.
Together, we still believe.
Together, we will overcome.

Note: Resources we can share and use together in our colleges to support and act on Anti-Asian hate incidents:

1. Stop AAPI Hate: The Asian Pacific Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University launched the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center on March 19, 2020 in different languages. <https://stopaapihate.org>
2. The Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation has been documenting hate crime and incidents since 2017. <https://www.standagainthatred.org/>
3. Hollaback Bystander Training <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>