



Statement about Atlanta Shooting (03/18/2021)

We are again saddened and angry in response to the killing of 8 people in Atlanta, 6 of whom were women of Asian descent. The targeting of Asian women reflects how the lethal intersection of white supremacy and misogyny fuels violence against women; the killings also underscore the epidemic of gun violence in this country.

Unfortunately, this event is not isolated nor surprising. For the last year, including on the day of these shootings, the former President used racist language when discussing COVID-19, fueling a year of intensified anti-Asian discrimination and hate crimes in the US. [Stop AAPI Hate](#), an organization that tracks and responds to incidents of violence and harassment against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, reported nearly 3,800 instances of discrimination against Asians in the US in the past year. Anti-Asian racism has transcended US history as evidenced by, for example, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Japanese internment during World War II, and anti-Muslim violence following 9/11. These histories remind us that our tendency as a society (and as a university) to consider Asians a monolith and to reinforce the damaging “model minority myth” both minimizes the role of that racism and negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of Asians and Asian Americans in our society.

Our department remains firmly committed social justice, human rights, and health equity for all. We also recognize that we have much internal work, reflection, and learning to do as part of that commitment. Please practice self-care, reach out to and support your colleagues who are affected, and reach out to us if needed.

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