



848 William Pitt Union
3959 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: (412)-648-7970

Statement on Increasing Anti-Asian Violence and Solidarity with the AAPI Community

For Immediate Release:

This past Tuesday, March 16th, eight people were murdered in Atlanta, Georgia; six out of eight victims were Asian women. We remember the lives of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Julie Park, Hyeon Jeong Park, Hyun Jung Grant, and the last victim whose name has not yet been released. We send deep love, healing, and comfort to all those who are grieving, especially the eight families mourning unimaginable losses, and to Elcias Hernandez-Ortiz, the one survivor of this hate-filled attack. The Student Government Board stands with Asian students, staff, faculty, and community members in Pittsburgh and around the world and continues to stand against xenophobia and racism.

This attack came at the end of a year filled with extreme xenophobia towards Asian Americans during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. According to [research](#) done by the reporting forum Stop AAPI Hate, there were 3,795 reported incidents against Asian Americans in just the last year. 68% of these reported incidents have happened to Asian women. The motivation of this attack is a reflection of this country's racist, misogynistic history, which goes further back than the pandemic.

Hatred towards Asian people has a history that goes back centuries in this country and is intertwined with anti-Asian racism, classism, misogyny, disdain for sex-workers, and American imperialism. Hatred towards Asian people is rooted in white supremacy, and the United States government has a history that participates in and perpetuates this harm. The Chinese Exclusion Act, Executive Order 9066, which almost exclusively affected Japanese Americans during World War II, and its unnecessary intervention in South Vietnam, which led to the Vietnam War, are a few examples throughout American history that have created harmful assumptions and hateful feelings towards Asian Americans and Asian cultures across the globe. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, racist rhetoric and harmful assumptions have been directed towards Asian Americans and Asian immigrants during viral outbreaks on American soil.



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The University has a responsibility to protect its Asian students, staff, and faculty, and must denounce racist and xenophobic language, actions, and assumptions. All members of our community should feel supported by the University, so we must also acknowledge the vital roles that Asian community members have on our campus. We urge our Pitt community to look to and uplift Asian community leaders and organizations for guidance in how to support immigrant communities, migrant massage workers, and sex workers.

As we continue to reflect and begin to move forward, we must remember that increased policing is never the response to such a tragedy. We are once again reminded that mass shootings and gun violence are all too common in America. SGB [supports common sense gun reform](#) to end gun violence in America. The events of the last week, along with the ongoing pandemic, are especially traumatizing for many. Students are encouraged to contact the University Counseling Center at 412-648-7930 for additional information on how you can get help.

Resources/Place to give:

[National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum \(NAPAWF\)](#): building collective power with AAPI women and girls to gain full agency over our lives, our families, and our communities.

[Red Canary Song](#): A grassroots collective of Asian and migrant sex-workers, organizing transnationally.

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta](#): 1st legal advocacy nonprofit dedicated to the civil rights of AANHPI in Georgia and the Southeast.

Mental Health Resources:

[Asian Mental Health Collective](#)

[APISAA Therapist Directory](#)

[The Crisisline](#): 1-800-273-TALK; Asian Languages: 1-877-990-8585

[Crisis Text Line](#): text CONNECT to 741741



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Reporting:

Report AAPI hate crimes to <https://stopaapihate.org>.

Thank you and In Solidarity,

Eric Macadangdang

2020-2021 Student Government Board President

Cedric Humphrey, Tyler Viljaste, Ben King, Annalise Abraham, Kathryn Fleisher, Katie Richmond, Victoria Chuah, & Victor So

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