

Statement on March 16 Violence Against AAPI

In the wake of the fatal hate crimes in the Atlanta area on March 16, we acknowledge the horror and pain, and stand with our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) colleagues, family members, and neighbors.

Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez, Paul Andre Michels, Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue. Six of the eight people killed were identified as women of Asian descent, and the shooter was identified as a white man.

Beyond the violent atrocity recently witnessed in Georgia, we recognize the longstanding, systemic, and insidious impact of racial trauma and discrimination experienced by AAPI individuals and communities locally and nationally, as well as Asian communities globally. We bear collective witness to the increased rates of hate crimes and violence towards persons of Asian descent during the global pandemic.

As psychologists, we strive towards anti-racism, anti-xenophobia, and trauma responsiveness. We are mindful that for those who experience such trauma directly and vicariously, the impact lasts far beyond the window of media attention and news coverage of the moment.

Our ethical principles (Principle D: Justice; Principle E: Respect for People's Rights and Dignity) call us to take action to ensure that our communities affected by hate receive affirmation, support, and healing. We stand committed to continued dialogue and action surrounding racial trauma and racialized misogyny.

Sincerely,
The DPA Diversity Committee &
Malina Spirito, Psy.D., M.Ed., DPA President

Select Resources:

Aaonline.org
Asianmhc.org
Naapimha.org
Stopaapihate.org
Theprojectlotus.org