



We Must Work Together to End Anti-Asian Hate and Violence

DOVE shares in the outrage and grief over the murder of eight people at three spas in Atlanta, of whom six were of Asian descent and seven were women. We stand in solidarity with our Asian and Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighbors and community members, community groups, churches, temples, and communities of faith, businesses, health and social service providers, and the families and allies of the victims of these horrific crimes.

The lives of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Paul Andre Michels, Julie Park, Hyun-Jeong Park Grant, and two others whose names have not yet been shared, matter. Learn more about them [here](#).

Political rhetoric over the past year has scapegoated the AAPI community as cause for the pandemic, and has fueled racist, sexist, and anti-Asian hatred. AAPI women have sounded the alarm, reporting $\frac{2}{3}$ of the 3,795 accounts of escalating levels of violence, discrimination, and harassment tracked by [Stop AAPI Hate](#) between March 2020 and February 2021. Hate incidents against AAPI community members increased nearly 150% over the prior year.

The responses of public officials have minimized, if not completely dismissed, the severity of the incident, reflected deep white supremacist attitudes, and sought to blame AAPI women – in this incident and more generally by implication – for their own victimization.

Connie Wun, co-founder of the research and advocacy group [AAPI Women Lead](#), said it was important to be even more specific about who was targeted in Atlanta: Asian women whose association with spas make them vulnerable to both systemic and interpersonal abuse. At the intersection of racism and sexism, AAPI women, femmes, and trans people bear the brunt of these systems of oppression. Many workers in lower wage service positions, including women in spas and massage parlors, are perceived to be sex workers. Our cultures routinely denigrate people engaged in the sex trades. In addition, our cultures routinely sexualize, fetishize, and exoticize AAPI women. The collision of these two things puts AAPI women, femmes, and trans people of all genders at extraordinary structural risk for violence and abuse, including murder.

We see the impacts of racialized misogyny in our own field of domestic violence services and prevention. “Dehumanization creates a climate that makes violence excusable,” states the National Network to End Domestic Violence. “Forty-one to 61 percent of Asian women report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime. This is significantly higher than any other ethnic group.”

The recent public hearings in Quincy regarding the possibility of the City establishing a Department on Social Justice and Equity are a local testament to the harassment and violence noted in Stop AAPI Hate’s report. At the hearing, numerous AAPI community citizens shared deeply painful experiences of verbal harassment, racial slurs, shunning, and discrimination – their own experiences, or those of others who didn’t feel safe to speak publicly – leaving those affected feeling vulnerable and isolated. Many people in attendance spoke to the need for intervention. DOVE’s own staff of Asian descent have been told to “go back where you came from” in the line of providing services to our

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community. As noted by Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta in their [statement](#) decrying this violence, “At a time where we could be building bridges of understanding and support, white supremacy continues to diminish our already fractured society.” We agree. In spite of many assets available in our great Quincy community, there’s more we can do, proactively in response to incidents locally and nationally, to support cross-racial dialogue and community-building and ensure a diverse, vibrant, safe, welcoming, and affirming community for all.

DOVE condemns rhetoric, racism, and violence against our AAPI community and all of our community members. Violence against any community hurts all of us. We are committed to standing alongside and taking leadership from our AAPI community members and partners in the greater Quincy area and beyond. We will continue striving to provide culturally appropriate and responsive services to AAPI survivors of domestic and partner abuse, including trafficking. We will continue to strengthen our partnerships with Asian-owned businesses, health care and social service providers, faith communities, and community members. DOVE Board member Olivia Moorehead-Slaughter notes, “As we stand in solidarity with the AAPI community, may we look, listen, and act to ‘be the change’ that is so desperately needed to end these acts of violence and hate.”

We urge our state and local leaders at all levels, as well as other community members, to join us in learning more and taking meaningful and sustained action. There are some community forums next week as a starting point, and additional options and resources listed below.

Quincy Asian Resources (QARI) is hosting a ***Community Forum on Anti-Asian Racism*** Tuesday, March 23, 7:00-8:15pm. To join, visit their [website](#).

The Massachusetts State Asian American Commission will host a ***Massachusetts Town Hall on Anti-Asian Racism*** next week on Thursday, March 25 at 6:00pm, in conjunction with many local area coalitions. To join, visit their website to [register](#).

Respectfully,

Sue Chandler

Executive Director, DOVE, Inc.

We uplift the following organizations, which are raising awareness, providing education, and directing aid.

[Asian and Pacific Islanders Civic Action Network \(APIs CAN!\) Statement](#)

[Jane Doe, Inc’s Statement: Stop Anti-Asian Hate by Ending White Supremacy](#)

For mental health support

Asian Mental Health Collective

AMHC is a community for Asian mental health support, connecting AAPI individuals to a directory of AAPI therapists and providing referrals to crisis lines. They also work to destigmatize seeking help for mental health.

<https://www.asianmhc.org>

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For supporting the Atlanta Asian community

Center for Pan-Asian Community Services:

CPACS provides healthcare and social services to many Asian and Asian American communities in the Atlanta area.

<https://cpacs.org/>

For education and advocacy

Watch *Asian Americans*, a 5-hour film series available via public television stations

(<https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/>)

Asian Americans Advancing Justice:

AAJC is both educating the public and collecting stories of harassment. The Atlanta chapter released a statement on Wednesday March 17th calling for action in response of the surge of violence against their communities.

<https://advancingjustice-aaajc.org/>

Red Canary Song:

RCS is a grassroots collective supporting labor rights for Asian migrant workers and sex workers. They specialize in mutual aid and community organizing.

<https://www.redcanarysong.net>

Stop AAPI Hate:

This organization is a collaboration between San Francisco State University and several California social service agencies to advocate for an end to Anti-Asian and Anti-Pacific Islander hate crimes at a national level.

<https://www.stopAAPIhate.org>

[After Atlanta: Four Steps to Building a Future Free of Racism and Gender-Based Violence](#)

For bystander intervention training

Valorus:

[The Bystander Intervention Mixtape to Prevent Systemic and Intercommunal Violence: Grounding Our Work in Empathy, Reconciliation, and Racial Justice Activism, a 2-Part Miniseries](#)

Hollaback:

Hollaback is offering free seminars both for Asian Americans who are experiencing harassment and for bystanders who can intervene when they witness anti-Asian harassment.

<https://www.ihollaback.org>

