



## American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association

### **AMENA-Psy stands in solidarity with our Asian and Asian American Communities**

AMENA-Psy unequivocally condemns the recent surge in historically persistent violence and racist acts against Asians and Asian Americans. Recently, the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA) submitted a [written testimony](#) to the United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee (Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties) for the [hearing](#) on “Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans” as well as a [statement](#) highlighting attacks on elders in the community, one of which led to the death of Vicha Ratanapakdee. We now also deeply mourn the victims in the horrific Atlanta shooting on March 16, 2021: Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez (33), Xiaojie Tan (49), Daoyou Feng (44), Paul Andre Michels (54), Soon C. Park (74), Hyun J. Grant (51), Suncha Kim (69), Elcias Hernandez-Ortiz (30), and Yong A. Yue (63). As MENA peoples, those of us without intersectional identities as Asian Americans may not feel the particular pain Asian communities are experiencing in this moment, but we remain heartbroken by these attacks and killings. Indeed, such killings may be retraumatizing for members of our communities who have fled violence abroad, only to bear witness to persecution here, among our Asian American siblings. We stand in solidarity with our AAPI siblings and recognize our shared struggle and the need for a united resistance against white supremacist ideology.

These assaults on Asian life are not isolated incidents. Nearly 3,800 instances of discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders over the past year have been documented by Stop AAPI Hate.<sup>1</sup> The actual number of incidents involving violence and harassment are likely higher, as this figure only reflects reported incidents. While recent attacks have been undoubtedly encouraged by politicians who have scapegoated an entire group of people, Anti-Asian racism has a long history in the United States. This racism has manifested in exclusion, internment, harassment, and violence against Asians, Asian Americans, and other marginalized groups.

As we reflect on the painful history of anti-Asian racism in the United States in light of the recent horrific murders in Atlanta, we also recognize that gendered racism has long placed Asian and Asian American women as primary targets of anti-Asian racism. This gendered racism dates at least as far back as the Page Act of 1875, the first U.S. federal act restricting immigration, which specifically targeted Chinese women. The recent murders of Asian/Asian American women is a tragic reminder of the continued presence of gendered racism in our society.

AMENA-Psy is outraged by the unabating structures of white supremacy that continue to inflict harm upon BIPOC communities, and we seek to redouble our efforts to build enduring ties reflecting this solidarity with our Asian and Asian American peers, friends and fellow human beings. We stand in solidarity with all members of the AAPI community as the AAPI community has stood in solidarity with

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/17/978055571/anti-asian-attacks-rise-during-pandemic-read-nprs-stories-on-the-surge-in-violen>

MENA people's encounters with racism and prejudice<sup>2</sup>; and in concert with longstanding activism and communal ties that underscore how the liberation of MENA peoples is inextricably linked with that of other BIPOC communities.<sup>3</sup>

We call on allies to take an active stance in supporting the AAPI community and the Asian American Psychological Association through the following actions:

- Center and amplify the voices of Asians and Asian Americans—and women, in particular—in their efforts to build safety and power for their communities
- Learn more about historical and ongoing anti-Asian racism and about anti-racist resistance movements and leaders. We recommend starting with:
  - [Page Act of 1875](#) - which effectively prohibited the entry of Chinese women into the United States.
  - [Chinese Exclusion Act](#)- The Chinese Exclusion Act was a United States federal law signed by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers
  - [Japanese Internment](#)- The internment of Japanese Americans in the United States during World War II was the forced relocation and incarceration in concentration camps in the western interior of the country of about 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, most of whom lived on the Pacific Coast.
  - [George Takei](#)
  - [Grace Lee Boggs](#)
- Partake in [bystander intervention training](#) through [Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)
  - [Free toolkit](#) to learn about addressing anti-Asian discrimination and hate
  - [Helping Give Away Psychological Science / AAPI Toolkit](#)
  - [Blog post](#) to learn more about gendered racism
  - [Dr. Grace Chen](#) on radical self care during racial trauma
  - [Book](#) by Derald Wing Sue, Sarah Alsaedi, and colleagues, on how to intervene against racism and bias
- Disrupt harmful stereotypes including COVID scapegoating & the model minority myth
- Call upon their elected officials to demand that they address the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and support legislation that will dismantle structural and institutional racism.
- Support the following organizations that help to combat anti-Asian racism and violence:

<a href="#">Dear Asian Youth</a>	<a href="#">Asian American Legal Defense and</a>
<a href="#">Stop AAPI Hate</a>	<a href="#">Education Fund</a>
Report an incident to <a href="#">Stand Against</a>	<a href="#">Asian American Psychological</a>
<a href="#">Hatred &amp; Stop AAPI Hate</a>	<a href="#">Association</a>
<a href="#">Asian Mental Health Collective</a>	<a href="#">Asian Americans Advancing Justice</a>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.kalw.org/post/exclusion-japanese-americans-muslim-ban-lawyers-speak-out-against-exclusion#stream/0> ;  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2017/2/1/muslim-ban-japanese-and-muslim-americans-join-forces> ;  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/japanese-american-internment-75-years-ago/>

<sup>3</sup> See, for example, efforts by groups such as #VigilantLOVE who seek “to create pathways to liberation and healing together,”  
<https://www.vigilantlove.org>.