



March 19, 2021

The African American Studies Program at the University of Texas at El Paso
Statement of Solidarity with Asian and Asian American Communities.

The African American Studies Program stands in solidarity with Asian and Asian American communities during this time of grief and rightful indignation at the escalating violence against, and harassment of, Asian Americans over the past year. On March 16, 2021, eight people, six of them Asian, were murdered without provocation. Their murderer showed no remorse or concern for those he killed or for the devastation his actions would bring to the victim's families nor the communities they represented. This wanton act of violence highlights a long history of individual, communal and governmental violence and oppression against Asians and people of Asian descent; violence and harassment that continues today. The Stop AAPI Hate reporting center released a detailed report on March 16th chronically the 3,795 hate incidents against Asian Americans they received over the past year; data representing only a fraction of overall cases.

Thus, the monstrous act of violence and carnage carried out in Georgia is further indicative of the need for us all, individually and collectively, to actively resist systemic racism and white supremacist ideologies and practices that are interwoven throughout the fabric of this nation. We share in your frustration with governmental failures to take proactive stances against clear denials of human rights, to acknowledge the danger behind language that seeks to dehumanize or characterize people as inferior, or to adequately address inhumane treatment and a respect for the sanctity of life for people of color. We have a lot of work to do and that work must be grounded in a united fight against white supremacy in all of its forms and manifestations.

As much as we stand in solidarity with Asian and Asian American communities during these trying times, we also stand in sorrow with you as you grapple with the painful loss of loved ones resulting from these violent attacks. We stand with you in the global fight against white supremacist ideations, institutional racist policies and practices that attempt to devalue human life, and deny or explain away racist acts and white supremacist practices. The African American Studies Program vehemently condemns the brutal treatment and murder of members of the Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islands communities. We stand in solidarity with our Asian and Pacific Islands brothers and sisters standing for justice and demand an immediate end to the discrimination, violence, harassment and oppression long exacted upon their communities and all communities of color. The African American Studies Program acknowledges both the right to life and the humanity of the eight people whose lives were so callously taken.

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