

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

To the UIC Community,

We are devastated at the murder of 8 people, 6 of whom were working-class Asian women, at the hands of a white gunman in Atlanta last night. In this past year alone, there have been nearly [3,800 incidences](#) of anti-Asian hate reported, and a [150% increase](#) in hate crimes from previous years. This pattern of violence is directly tied to hateful rhetoric around the COVID-19 pandemic and its origins. However, to claim that this is a new phenomenon, that anti-Asian hate and violence in this country are recent constructs, is far from the truth. For hundreds of years, American Imperialism has ravaged East Asia and the Pacific, and the logics of white supremacy have criminalized and fetishized the very act of being Asian. From the colonization of the Philippines to the import and exclusion of thousands of Chinese railroad workers to the internment of Japanese Americans in WWII to the atrocities committed in the invasion of Vietnam to the post-9/11 hyper surveillance and violence against Muslim and Sikh Americans and so many other stories, this is an often-overlooked part of our American history. We must tackle white supremacy, and confront not just these acts of domestic terrorism, but all instances of violence that exist at the intersection of misogyny and xenophobia.

Harmful perceptions of Asian Americans as the ‘model minority’ minimize and normalize these acts. Knowing this, it is all the more important that we are educated and vocal, and we do not allow ourselves to fall back into passivity. We must hold ourselves and our peers accountable in recognizing that these recent attacks can be categorized as targeted hate crimes and nothing else. Each one of us has a role to play, whether that is at the individual level supporting and educating each other and building solidarity between struggles against white supremacy or at the institutional level examining the dynamics of power and distribution of funds to programs at our own university. If you are able, please hold space with your students/staff/community members, and take a moment to read and reflect on these statements from [GLAS](#), [WLRC](#), and the [AARCC](#). To our UIC Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) community, we are here to stand with you and support you, and to always stay committed in the fight to dismantle structural racism and white supremacy.

#StopAAPIHate.

Signed,

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Resources compiled by the Global Asian Studies Faculty

- Curricular Resources:
 - Teaching Against Racism curricular resources compiled by the UIC Global Asian Studies Program: <http://bit.ly/TeachingAgainstRacism>
 - UIC Student-Led Teach-In on Yellow Peril COVID-19 organized by the UIC Asian and Asian American Student Collective: <http://bit.ly/AntiAsianRacismTeachIn>
- Campus and Community Resources:
 - UIC Asian American Resource and Cultural Center: <https://aarcc.uic.edu/anti-asian-bias-tools-and-resources/>
 - Bystander Intervention Training organized by Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago: <https://www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/what-we-do/bystander-intervention-trainings/>
- Hate and Bias Reporting Tools:
 - UIC Bias Reporting Tool: <http://bit.ly/UICBiasReportingTool>
 - Stop AAPI Hate: <http://StopAAPIHate.org>