



Statement of Solidarity

On March 16th, a grievous assault on the Asian-American community of Atlanta, Georgia resulted in the loss of eight lives. We send our condolences to the families and friends of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, and Yong Ae Yue.

We reject the Atlanta Police's comment that it is too early to know if the shooter's coordinated attacks were racially motivated. The refusal to call hate crimes for what they are is in itself an act of violence and an impediment to justice. Further, this attack is evidence of the intersection of misogyny and racism, and how violence will always persist in reaction to these rooted prejudices. Hesitating to name these motivations is to turn a blind eye to the fear and discrimination afflicting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAPI community has been the target of racist hate crimes and derogatory hate speech all over the world. The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism in California published a report stating that hate crimes against Asians has increased by 150% since 2019 in the United States alone.¹ It is not "too early" to know if hate crimes are racially motivated—in fact, we are too late to acknowledge and act against the racism, anti-immigrant rhetoric and misogyny that are the continuous breeding grounds for such acts of violence.

As an organization working globally to eradicate violence against women, we often witness that the intersection of race, gender and class make women vulnerable to attacks. Massage workers and sex workers in the US have a particular vulnerability in that their work is low-wage and usually illegal, keeping them in a state of precarity that adds another layer of risk.

As Red Canary Song, a grassroots collective of Asian and migrant sex workers, say in their statement on the shootings: "Due to sexist racialized perceptions of Asian women, especially those engaged in vulnerable, low-wage work, Asian massage workers are harmed by the criminalization of sex work, regardless of whether they engage in it themselves."

We denounce all acts of violence, as well as the refusal to acknowledge the racial and misogynistic motivators at the root of these attacks. We also demand the decriminalization of sex work worldwide.

VOICE stands in solidarity with the AAPI community; we see you and we are listening to you.

¹ <https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/FACT%20SHEET-%20Anti-Asian%20Hate%202020%203.2.21.pdf>

We call on leaders, donors and individuals to take action and learn more about the #StopAsianHate movement, as well as donate to organizations working to support Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Please show solidarity with Red Canary Song by signing their Letter [here](#).