



Asian Interest Forum

Statement to Condemn Asian Hate from NAEYC Asian Interest Forum in Solidarity with People of Color Caucus

It is with a heavy heart that the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Asian Interest Forum (AIF) condemns the tragic murders in Atlanta, Georgia, which resulted in eight deaths, including six Asian women. We stand with the families of the victims and offer our sincere condolences. We share their pain, as we grapple with the truth that such an attack could have happened to any one of us Asian-Americans. In light of these heartbreaking events, we are appalled, angry, and deeply saddened.

This incident is not an isolated one. More than 3,800 anti-Asian hate crimes have been reported in the past year alone, with a significant number of these attacks directed at Asian women. In addition, since many of these incidents never get reported, this statistic is likely a grim underestimate. Harassment and violence against Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIA) persons, families, and communities have increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, due to inflammatory rhetoric and anti-Asian xenophobia. We denounce all instances of violence against Asian Americans and stand in solidarity as members and allies of the Asian American community.

It is our duty as early childhood educators to provide space for all children to have honest conversations about racism, discrimination, and bias. We must teach our children to recognize instances of systematic discrimination and institutionalized racism from a young age. It is our job to help children who are witnessing such racism by teaching them to call out the injustices we experience in our communities.

As Asian Americans, we share equal rights with every American in the land of the free. We refuse to be continuously identified as the model minority, and we refuse to stay silent. Hear our anger, our voices, and join us in condemning hatred and violence toward our Asian co-workers, parents, children, and relatives. We must stand up and advocate for one another when ignorance and bigotry threaten members of our community. Let us unite in the fight against Asian hate.

In solidarity,

Sandy Baba, Ph.D., Shu-Chen Jenny Yen, Ph.D., NAEYC Asian Interest Forum Facilitators, Co-signed
by
NAEYC People of Color Caucus Executive Committee, consisting of NAEYC Asian, Black Caucus,
Diversity and Equity Education for Adults, Latino and Tribal and Indigenous Interest Forums

Asian Interest Forum, Sandy Baba, Ph.D., Shu-Chen Jenny Yen, Ph.D.
Black Caucus, Jerlean Daniel, Ph.D., Maurice Sykes, MA., Ed Greene, Ph.D.
Diversity and Equity Education for Adults Interest Forum, Kevin McGowan Ph.D., Meg Thomas, MA.,
Encian Pastel
Latino Interest Forum, Jorge Saenz De Viteri, Luis Hernandez
Tribal and Indigenous Interest Forum, Elle Koolijin Roelofs, MA

Resources

- Addressing Anti-Asian Bias (Learning for Justice/Southern Poverty Law Center): <https://www.learningforjustice.org/the-moment/march-15-2021-addressing-antiasian-bias>
- ADL Student Toolkit on Responding to Hate: <https://www.adl.org/media/12084/download>
- Asian American Community Battles Surge in Hate Crimes (PBS): <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/asian-american-community-battles-surge-in-hate-crimes-stirred-from-covid-19>
- Asian Pacific American Advocates: [Responding to Hate Incidents: Community Action Guide](#) and [COVID-19 Toolkit: Strategies to Defeating Asian American Racial Profiling and Xenophobia](#)
- How to Help Fight Anti-Asian Violence: <https://time.com/5947603/how-to-help-fight-anti-asian-violence/>
- Japanese American Citizens League Responding to Hate: <https://jacl.org/antihate-program>
- Self-Evident: Asian America's Stories: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/self-evident-asian-americas-stories/id1462539226>
- Stop AAPI Hate: <https://stopaapihate.org/>
- Supporting Recovery After Trauma: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/mental-health/article/supporting-recovery-after-trauma?fbclid=IwAR32Mf5ccR22I6-9sMp-6bZd9mNpoieCd30RU7w2AYqRE4fhaDGn1b2A54M>
- Watch Asian Americans, the history of identity, contributions, and challenges experienced by Asian Americans, a PBS production: <https://www.pbs.org/show/asian-americans/>
- We Are Not a Stereotype: <https://smithsonianapa.org/learn/not-a-stereotype/>
- What You Can Do to Fight Violence and Racism Against Asian Americans: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/what-you-can-do-to-fight-violence-and-racism-against-asian-americans>