

## APABA STATEMENT AND CALL TO ACTION

March 17, 2021

For the past year, the AAPI community has been calling for an end to hatred and violence against Asian Americans. In the wake of assaults on Asian Americans and acts of vandalism towards AAPI-owned businesses early in the pandemic, more recent attacks on elderly members of our community, and yesterday's heartbreaking and contemptible shooting in Georgia, we have grieved for our community and have been met with the support of Americans of all backgrounds. We extend our condolences to the continually growing number of victims of violence against AAPIs and their families, and our gratitude to those who stand with us in condemning the rising hatred.

As details of the horrific attack in Georgia unfold, we are reminded of the struggles our community has faced since the beginning of the history of Asians in America. We are reminded of xenophobic language and the perpetuation of stereotypes that have allowed perpetrators of acts of violence against persons of Asian descent to see their victims as less human. We are reminded of a history of dangerous sexualization and fetishization of Asian women and the misogyny it continues to feed. We are reminded of the failure of many Americans, including some of our own community, to acknowledge that we are not insulated from racially-motivated violence. The recognition of these ongoing challenges is painful and angering, but it brings us closer to an answer to the looming question behind the supportive call to #StopAAPIHate: **How?**

The end of hate begins with changing perceptions. Those whose words have an impact in shaping public perception have a responsibility to choose their words with care and concern for those who could be affected. In recognition of this principle, the Anti-Defamation League has created a [petition](#) to urge Congress to adopt a resolution to condemn all forms of anti-Asian sentiment related to COVID-19, which has undoubtedly served as a catalyst for the well-documented surge in hate incidents against AAPIs in the last year. We must also speak against dehumanizing language and stereotypes, including the stereotype that Asians do not experience racially-motivated violence. We must look with scrutiny on acts of violence that disproportionately target a particular group, with an understanding that acts of terrorism can be committed by, and perpetrated against, people of any group.

As an individual, there are actions you can take to support the AAPI community, including:

- Reporting hate crimes and hate incidents
- Educating and informing others of violence against AAPIs
- Attending a bystander training (save the date for the CBA/APABA bystander training with Hollaback on **May 18, 2021 at noon**)
- Raising awareness about mental health offerings for AAPI individuals
- Protecting Asian elders
- Raising funds to empower AAPI individuals and businesses

Resources for such efforts are provided in [this article](#) and on [our website](#).

### **Addressing Anti-Asian Hate Town Hall**

APABA is sponsoring a virtual town hall **tomorrow, March 18**, from **6:00-7:30pm MT**, to address hate incidents against AAPIs. To register, go to this link [here](#).

### **APABA Community Outreach Subcommittee Meeting**

We will also be hosting a virtual APABA Community Outreach subcommittee meeting on **April 5, 2021 at 12:00pm** (Zoom link [here](#), Meeting ID: 890 6497 9998, Passcode: 805763), to discuss programs and campaigns to combat AAPI hate, including ways to protect our Asian American elders and to support our Asian small businesses.

All are welcome to attend both events.

We thank those who have expressed solidarity in the midst of attacks on our community and remind our members that we are here to support you during these times.

Please contact [APABA](#) if you have any questions or need any support during this difficult time.