

Psychology &
Neuroscience



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

Subject: Statement regarding violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander Community

Dear Members of the UNC Psychology & Neuroscience Community,

We write with deep concern and anger after the murder of eight people, including six women of Asian descent, in Atlanta yesterday. We mourn the loss of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, Daoyou Feng, and the other (currently unnamed) victims of this racist attack. Their tragic deaths come against the backdrop of an increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in light of the long history of oppression of AAPI individuals in the United States.

We call on members of our community to stand up and speak out against anti-Asian violence, xenophobia, racism, and discrimination, in solidarity with other communities of color who have and continue to endure systemic and interpersonal oppression. We implore you to take action to address anti-Asian discrimination and xenophobia in your communities and University, perhaps during this week's [Hour of Action](#) on Friday at 3:00 pm.

In response to ongoing and yesterday's tragic events, a number of statements and calls to action have been made by groups within the broader psychology and neuroscience community, a few of which we link to here to provide additional context, resources, and solidarity.

[SRCD Asian Caucus](#)

[American Educational Research Association](#)

[Asian American Psychological Association's Statement on Increased Stigma and Xenophobia during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

If you are feeling distressed by the current events, please feel free to reach out to one of us directly, and remember that you can access free psychological support through [UNC Counseling and Psychological Services](#). There are also a wealth of resources around AAPI racism and discrimination that can be accessed [here](#).

In solidarity,

Keely, Shauna, and Don

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Chairs and Department Chair