

The University of Calgary's Graduate Students' Association (GSA) along with the GSA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee condemns the recent hate crimes targeting Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States by a white 21-year-old man. This abhorrent racial and gendered attack in Atlanta, Georgia took the lives of eight innocent people, including six Asian women. We want to acknowledge the names of those killed and acknowledge their lives, so senselessly cut short. Please take a moment of silence and reflection over this tragedy and these individuals.

Soon Chung Park, age 74
Hyun Jung Grant, age 51
Suncha Kim, age 69
Yong Yue, age 63

Delaina Ashley Yaun, age 33
Paul Andre Michels, age 54
Xiaojie Tan, age 49
Daoyou Feng, age 44

The GSA and the GSA EDI Committee firmly denounce anti-Asian racism, violence, and harassment in all forms. We stand in solidarity with the Asian community in Canada and globally. As anti-Asian racism and xenophobia surge, we are seeing an increase in the attacks against Asian communities and individuals in the [United States](#), [Canada](#), and around the world. The hatred that spurred this attack was demonstrably caused by the intersection of white supremacy, racism, sexism, and misogyny.

These recent events highlight that racist and hateful acts perpetrated against Asians have been on the rise since the beginning of the global pandemic, coined as Covid-Racism by scholars such as Sangeun Lee. Myths and rhetoric regarding the pandemic have perpetuated prejudice and discrimination against Asian communities and individuals during this time, however, these acts are not a new phenomenon in the United States, Canada, or globally. Asian communities have a long history of living with and continue to live with dangerous racial stereotypes and acts of racism, notably including [Canada's long history of racial segregation against Asian Canadians](#). Types of discrimination can include: verbal harassment, physical assault, civil rights violations, and online harassment. The collective, we, cannot ignore these racial and violent acts, and we must all speak out and take action to make our communities, including our online communities, safe and secure for all.

We must also recognize that the intersection of race and gender positions Asian women at a greater risk of violence. This is a result of the long history of stereotypes, misogyny, and fetishization that Asian women face. Just as we must consider the varied experience of Asian women, we must also consider the unique experiences of violence and racism against different Asian communities. This includes South Asian, East and Southeast Asians, West Central Asian and Middle Eastern origins, Pacific Islanders, and other Asian origins, and intersecting Black, Indigenous, and other People of Colour. These communities include vast diversity in origins, but also in the stereotypes, racial discrimination, and racial injustice they experience.

We are speaking up now against anti-Asian racism and violence, and will continue working toward being better, consistent allies for our Asian and Asian Canadian community members. Please join us in speaking out and taking action against anti-Asian racism.

So where do we start?

- **Acknowledge** your own language and be introspective. Have you used racist language that could harm members of the Asian community?
- **Educate** yourself about this topic by reading books (see Simeon Man, Chanel Miller, Lisa Ko, and Angie Kim), articles (see Jennifer Ho, Chrystal Abidin & Jing Zeng, Simeon Man, and Maneesh Arora & Hannah J. Kim), watching documentaries (see "In the Shadow of Gold Mountain," "Return Home," and "Everything Will Be"), listening to podcasts (see "Voices of the Pandemic") and by learning from [Asian Canadians](#) on how the

COVID-19 pandemic has affected them.

- **Be an active bystander** and consider the following resources and training: [Government of Canada](#) and [Holla Back](#). Stay safe, stay calm, speak out. Consider the five-D's: directly addressing the attacker, offering a distraction, delaying and offering support, delegating by getting help from people around you or documenting the incident.
- **Report** and help end racism in all forms by visiting [Fight Covid Racism](#), [Elimin8Hate](#), [Project 1907](#), [Act 2 End Racism](#), and [Canadian Race Relations Foundation](#).
- **Shop** at Asian-owned shops and restaurants.
- **Donate** to [Asians Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta](#), [CCNC-SJ](#), [Across Boundaries](#), [Diversecities](#), or [Action Dignity](#).
- **Follow** social media accounts that focus on North American Asian communities. This will keep you informed and help you get involved, including [IG] [@asians4antiracism](#), [@stopaapihate](#), [@hateisavirus](#), [@stopasianhate](#), [@asiansformentalhealth](#), [@michellekimkim](#), [@teachandtransform](#), and [@annie_wu_22](#) Join the conversation on social media and support Asian leaders under the following hashtags: #StopAsianHate, #StandForAsians, #HateIsAVirus, #TalkAsianHate, and #FaceRace.
- **Contact** crisis support at [Crisis Services Canada](#), and, or mental health and wellness support at [Empower Me](#).

At the GSA, staff and Board members include anti-oppression topics in our weekly meetings to ensure we continuously challenge our own biases, learn how to be better allies, and recognize racism and oppression in all of its forms. The GSA EDI Committee is working to create a framework for supporting racialized and oppressed community members and consistently make changes toward a safe and welcoming space for all.

If you would like to contact the GSA EDI Committee please email GSA President, Tanille Shandro at pres.gsa@ucalgary.ca.

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.



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