



North American Drama Therapy Association Cultural Humility, Equity, and Diversity

Position Statement and Call to Action:

Drama Therapists for #StopAsianHate: An NADTA Anti-Asian Racism Statement

"Love isn't about what we did yesterday; it's about what we do today and tomorrow and the day after."

- Grace Lee Boggs, Asian American revolutionary

The NADTA stands in solidarity with our Asian, Asian American, Asian Canadian, and Pacific Islander membership and communities as we express our grief and rage at the ongoing systemic violence against Asians in North America. We recognize the systemic roots of this racist, xenophobic, and too often misogynistic violence, and identify that while the Violence Against Women Act was renewed this week, 172 Republicans voted against it, just 24 hours after eight women--including six Asian American women--were killed by gun violence in Atlanta.

The United States and Canada have a long, painful history of Anti-Asian racism. Frequently subjected to discriminatory immigration policies, banned from employment opportunities, prevented from seeking medical treatment at 'white' hospitals, forced to pay head tax, imprisoned without cause, and restricted from voting (Chinese and South Asians Canadians were not able to vote in Canada until 1947 and Japanese Canadians were not able to vote in 1949), these examples are some of the many ways Asian Canadians and Asian Americans have been discriminated against across the last two centuries. After a significant period of increased racial violence against Chinese people in the United States in the mid-1850s, the U.S. passed the Page Act in 1875, which banned all Chinese women from entering the U.S. In 1882, U.S. lawmakers passed a federal ban on Chinese immigration, prohibiting all Chinese people from entering the U.S. In the late 1800s, there was an influx of Chinese people in Canada, recruited to help build the Canadian Pacific Railway. Upon its completion, Chinese people were forced to pay the Chinese Head Tax -- a punitive fee of \$50-\$500 from 1885 to 1921. Canada then passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1923 and banned the entry of Chinese people from immigrating into Canada for 24 years. And in 1942, during WWII, the American and Canadian government detained and dispossessed all people of

Japanese descent, including many American citizens, into internment and concentration camps. [Chinese and South Asians were granted the right to vote in 1944, while Japanese Canadians were granted voting rights in 1949.](#) More recently, the 45th President racialized and weaponized a global pandemic which encouraged and escalated anti-Asian rhetoric astronomically in 2020 and presently. This history of exclusion and on-going hate speech has led to continued violence against our North American Asian communities.

We condemn the oppressive systems that re-enforce this extremely harmful rhetoric and motivate ongoing discrimination and violence.

Last week, Atlanta, Georgia became the scene of another violent anti-Asian hate crime, where eight people were killed, six of them Asian women, in a multi-location shooting across three Asian-owned massage parlors, salons, and spas throughout surrounding suburbs of Atlanta where people are provided intimate care, touch, and healing. We grieve and condemn the white supremacist and misogynistic violence enacted against those who should be alive and with us today.

- Soon Chung Park, age 74
- [Hyun Jung Grant \(née Kim\)](#), 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

There has also been a growing number of incidents of violence against Asian Americans, particularly elders, poor, migrant, refugee and undocumented labourers, trans, disabled, women, and sex workers across North America. The day after the mass shooting, Xiao Zhen Xie, a 76-year-old Chinese woman, was waiting at a traffic light in San Francisco when a white man punched her in the face, unprovoked. This targeted violence cannot stand. Our community values our Asian elders and we are grateful for the care, wisdom, and love we have been given.

The POC in BIPOC has always included Asian people. If your antiracism does not include this group, it is incomplete.

Together, we must work to end systems of racism, misogyny, state violence, income inequality, and ageism that enable leaders to sow division and divide us. These hate crimes will only stop when communities work together to demand changes in policy and practice that protect the most vulnerable and targeted members of our society.

TAKE ACTION NOW.

If you've been doing the work to deconstruct your own relationship to systemic racism, you have learned valuable tools for addressing white supremacy.

Use these tools to work with us to dismantle the impact of white supremacy against the Asian community.

What we can do together:

1. Raise awareness, speak up, and condemn racism:

- Speak to the powers that be, including lawmakers in your area
- Disseminate information to your spheres of influence
- Call out racism and white supremacy. And learn how to call in
- Build community solidarity by finding ways to contribute within your own home community

2. Educate yourself and others:

- Learn about the historical roots and current violence towards Asian North Americans and the divisiveness white supremacy has created among Black and Asian communities
- Understand the complex fetishization, exoticization, and gender-based discrimination and violence against Asian women
- Learn strategies to intervene when you witness Anti-Asian violence
- Take Bystander Intervention Training:
 - *[Free Online Training with Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago](#)
- Learn how to properly pronounce names (resource below on how to pronounce the Korean and Chinese names of victims from the shooting)
- Join or renew your commitment to the [#DramaTherapistsAgainstWhiteSupremacy](#) Campaign

3. Support and donate to the families of the victims and the organizations working to combat anti-Asian racism and whorephobia

- [FIGHT COVID-19 RACISM](#)
- [Chinese Canadian National Council - For Social Justice](#)
- Red Canary Song Grassroots Organization (Linked Below)

- DecrimNY <https://www.decrimny.org/>
- #StopAsianHate - Go Fund Me Page
- Butterfly: Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Network <https://www.butterflysw.org/>
- Maggie's Toronto Sex Worker's Action Project <https://www.maggiesto.org/donate>
- SWAN Vancouver <https://www.swanvancouver.ca/>
- [Asian Canadian Benevolent Association For The Elderly](#) helps vulnerable Asian seniors in Canada.
- [Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Fund](#) GoFundMe currently set up to help those being affected by the surge in racism and violence.
- [Asian Mental Health Collective](#),
- [Apex For Youth](#)
- [Canadian Society for Asian Arts](#),
- [Chinatown Foundation](#).
- [GoFundMe: In memory of Hyun Jung Kim](#)
- [GoFundMe: Elderly Asian Woman Attacked \(Xiao Zhen Xie\)](#)
- [GoFundMe: Memorial for Yong Yue and Peterson Family](#)
- [GoFundMe: Paul Michels](#)
- [GoFundMe: Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez](#)
- [GoFundMe: In Loving Memory of Suncha Kim](#)
- [Send Chinatown Love](#)
- [18 Million Rising](#)
- [I Am Womankind](#)

4. **Report:** Report instances of anti-Asian hate crime to <https://stopaapihate.org/>

5. Share mental health resources with your AAPI clients, colleagues, friends and family (and/or self!)

[Upcoming Healing Asian Community Circles](#)

6. Share with our NADTA community any additional resources and actionable ways we can build solidarity and fight against anti-Asian racism together by reaching out to chedc@nadta.org

Links & Resources:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/03/17/us/shooting-atlanta-acworth>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/17/trump-calls-covid-19-the-chinese-virus-as-rift-with-coronavirus-beijing-escalates>
- <https://www.redcanarysong.net/>
- [NAACP | Civil Rights and Racial Justice Organizations Denounce Discrimination Against Asian Americans and Urge Unity in Responding to Coronavirus Pandemic.](#)

- <https://www.latimes.com/entertainment-arts/books/story/2021-03-19/tracy-quandt-forget-the-atlanta-shooting-is-a-hate-crime-against-sex-workers>
- [Asian Mental Health Project](#)
- [Pronunciation Guide to Atlanta Spa Shooting Victims with Korean/Chinese Names](#)
- [Asian American Journalists Association](#)
- [Black and Asian-American Feminist Solidarities: A Reading List](#)
- [Subtle Asian Mental Health \[Facebook Group\]](#)
- [Groupe d'Entraide Contre le Racisme Envers les Asiatiques au Québec \[Facebook Group\]](#)
- [Sign the Declaration of Support: Justice for Migrant Sex Workers](#)
- [Meurtres à Atlanta: Onde de choc dans les communautés asiatiques du Canada](#)
- [Stream *Asian Americans* \[PBS Film\]](#)
- [Dear Asian Americans \[Podcast\]](#)
- [Events in Asian Canadian History](#)
- [BLM Dictionary for the Asian American Community](#)
- [Anti-Asian Violence Resources](#)
- [Asian-American Community Resources](#)
- [Asian Mental Health Collective](#)
- [NAPAWF: National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum](#)
- [NAKASEC: The National Korean American Service & Education Consortium #Citizenship4All](#)
- [Rise Now](#)
- [Adhikaar - New York based Nepali-speaking community promoting human rights and social justice](#)
- [Afire Chicago - Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment](#)
- [Chinese Progressive Association](#)
- [Damayan Migrant Workers Association](#)
- [Racial Trauma Toolkit at Boston College](#)
- <https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org/aaajcommunitystatement> (they have a page for donations to go directly to the victims and their families)

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