



Commission on Human Rights

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STATEMENT FROM NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR AND COMMISSIONER CARMELYN P. MALALIS ON THE ANTI-ASIAN ATTACK IN ATLANTA, GA

“Today, we mourn the senseless deaths of eight people in Georgia, six of whom were Asian women murdered at their places of work. We have lost these eight people because of brutal acts of hate. I am heartbroken for the victims’ families, loved ones, and communities, and I am horrified at the pain and devastation this act of hate is causing Asian and Asian American communities.

Regardless of the reported motivations of the perpetrator in this incident, Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities feel this act of hate deeply and personally, especially in light of the violence and stigma that have been levelled against our communities over the past year. Recognizing that API women have been disproportionately targeted in these acts of hate, we need to acknowledge the work we must all do to address misogyny as we combat anti-Asian violence and all forms of racism.

I, like many other API people I know, checked in with friends and loved ones who have been impacted by the increased reports of anti-Asian violence over the last year on top of the daily challenges brought on by the pandemic. For over a year APIs have called out the growing violence we have faced, driven by stigma over COVID-19 and callously perpetuated by our past president. Reports of anti-Asian bias incidents and hate crimes in New York City mirror the wave we have seen nationally. With low-wage and frontline workers—those in transportation, healthcare, and food delivery—bearing the brunt of these anti-Asian attacks. The attacks in Georgia add evidence to the role of systemic inequality in making all workers susceptible to bias and violence during this pandemic.

Throughout this time, Asian and Pacific Islanders have been unrelenting in the fight for justice and healing. And we will persevere. The Commission will continue to fight with fervor against the systemic inequalities, white supremacy, and xenophobia that have led to this violence. In striving to create healing, my agency will be hosting a series of healing circles for Asian New Yorkers to commune, share resources, and offer support for one another. People who experience or witness discrimination, can also report it to our agency by calling 212-416-0197 or online at [NYC.gov/ReportDiscrimination](https://nyc.gov/ReportDiscrimination).

For all New Yorkers looking for ways to get involved, I invite you to become an upstander. Do not let unspeakable acts of hate in your community go unnoticed. It is in these moments that we must each step into our power and act.”

Visit [NYC.gov/StopCOVIDHate](https://nyc.gov/StopCOVIDHate) to learn more about upcoming trainings on how to be an upstander.

Visit [NYC.gov/StopAsianHate](https://nyc.gov/StopAsianHate) to educate your communities about anti-Asian bias, discrimination and harassment.