



The Society for Black Neuropsychology (SBN), Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS), and the Asian Neuropsychological Association (ANA) are once again saddened and incensed at yet another senseless act of violence perpetrated against our sisters and brothers in the Asian community. Our thoughts are with the families of the innocent victims who were gunned down in Atlanta, Georgia on March 17th, 2021, as well as the other victims of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) targeted hate and harassment around the country. This event has led to increased awareness about the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes occurring nation-wide. According to the Center for Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University – San Bernardino, hate crimes directed towards Asian-Americans has surged 149% in 2020 while overall hate crimes dropped 7% during that same time period. These acts have created increased fear, anxiety, isolation, and insecurity amongst our colleagues, families, and patients.

SBN, HNS, and ANA categorically condemn any and all anti-Asian rhetoric, discrimination, and violence. Racism, xenophobia, white supremacy, intersectional racism (e.g., racialized misogyny), and unchecked gun violence in the United States that has contributed to a rise in hate crimes. In December 2020, Stop AAPI Hate released a report indicating that in the state of Georgia, Asian women were more than three times as likely to experience hate than Asian men and that these instances of hate took place at private businesses 40% of the time (Stop AAPI Hate, 2020). Pleas for improved safety and justice for those impacted have been largely met with indifference and inaction. As a result, we are again mourning lives that were violently taken by racism and misogyny.

Today, SBN, HNS, and ANA stand with our Asian sisters and brothers with one sentiment:

ENOUGH.

Enough of adding names to the long list of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) bodies sacrificed to racism and white supremacy. Enough of believing the perpetrator over the victims. Enough of blaming communities of color for the violence perpetrated against them. Enough of implicating these communities as the source of America's collective challenges. Enough of denying, excusing and minimizing microaggressions, xenophobic rhetoric, hate speech, racial profiling, systemic discrimination, and hate crimes.

ENOUGH!

Our country and our communities are suffering. Racism costs everyone (McGhee, 2021). We are left with the question of where do we go from here? In her book entitled, *Black Fatigue: How Racism*

Erodes the Mind, Body, and Spirit, Mary-Fances Winters offers tangible ways to heal and move forward in solidarity that applies for all communities of color (Winters, 2020, pg. 187):

1. **Dialogue.** Create open, inclusive spaces to develop “cross-race” dialogue about the lived experience of marginalized groups.
2. **Acknowledge the trauma and fear experienced by members of the community.**
 - a. If you or someone you know is feeling emotionally drained by these experiences, there are resources to assist. The Asian Neuropsychological Association, among others, is a great resource to learn more about how to get involved with advocacy initiatives
3. **Understand that every culture has unique lived experiences and there are differences even within communities. We can learn from each other and practice reciprocal empathy.**
4. **Create a shared decolonized model of how to dismantle structural racism.**
5. **Collaborate in earnest to understand how elements of racist systems interrelate**
6. **Hold power brokers accountable by identifying specific accountability measures and transparent practices and goals that support racial equity and justice.**
 - a. Reach out to your institutional leaders to set the example and submit statements to openly condemn anti-Asian racism. One example of how to do so is provided by Dr. Sherry Wang, PhD, from Santa Clara University who has created a template that is included at the end of this document that can be shared.

Together we can take steps to make our communities safe for people of all ethnic backgrounds. This requires intentionality and dedication to unequivocally stand against hatred and racism in all its forms.

In Solidarity,

SBN Executive Committee
HNS Executive Board and Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
ANA Executive Committee

References

McGhee, H. (2021). *The sum of us: What racism costs everyone and how we can prosper together*. One World Publishers.

Stop AAPI Hate (2020, December 28). Georgia report. STOP APPI HATE.
www.stopappihate.org.

Winters, M.-F. (2020). *Black Fatigue: How racism erodes the mind, body, and spirit*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc.

Template to advocate for institutions to condemn anti-Asian hate crime

Dear X,

I'm emailing to ask you to issue a statement to address the surge of anti-Asian hate crimes that are happening. I'm not sure if you have seen the news about what happened last night in Georgia: 8 people were killed, 6 of them Asian women in mass shootings by a White person who targeted three massage parlors. This incident is adding fuel to the fire that these were hate crimes specifically targeting people of Asian descent.

As you know, I have been giving media interviews weekly, sometimes daily, to domestic and international outlets on the topic of rising anti-Asian violence in the COVID19 pandemic. One of the issues that is coming up is student fears of returning to school and whether schools are prepared for and even aware of the anti-Asian racism that we, Asian Americans are fearing, anticipating, and anxiously sitting with on a daily basis. It is imperative for schools and universities to make statements letting students and families know that this issue is seen, recognized, and that future steps will be taken—even it is unclear at this point what those preventative measures are.

I also caution us from assuming that there is more safety in places where there are more Asian Americans. ***Especially for states like CA, where we see the largest numbers of reported hate crimes,*** it is important to know that ethnic density is NOT a protective factor. That is, having more Asian Americans in our states and cities do not actually protect us; quite frankly, they may elicit greater anti-Asian racism by making us seem more threatening to those who endorse the model minority stereotype.

For more information on the documented hate crimes collected by Stop AAPI hate, I have provided their most recent report, which was actually updated yesterday:

<https://secureservercdn.net/104.238.69.231/a1w.90d.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/210312-Stop-AAPI-Hate-National-Report-.pdf>

I anxiously await your response to this and am grateful for your leadership and your time.