



CELEBRATING CAROLINA'S DIVERSITY

March 23, 2021

Alumni and Friends,

We grieve with the families who lost loved ones in the Atlanta area shootings last week when a gunman killed eight people, including six women of Asian descent.

The Alumni Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity denounces violence in all forms, including the latest surge in violence against Asians and Asian Americans. Though racism against Asians is not new in American history, the emergence of COVID-19 reveals again the menace of bigotry and we must overcome hatred through knowledge and understanding.

Asian American students comprise Carolina's largest and fastest growing undergraduate ethnic population. Our university strives toward inclusivity and diversity; therefore, we call on the entire Carolina community to support and embrace our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) members. Many suffer in silence from micro-aggressions, bigotry or outright abuse. We can no longer simply stand by and do nothing. An injustice done to one of us is an injustice to us all.

Now is the time to do more than offer thoughts and prayers – become part of the solution.

- Report incidents of hate or violence against AAPI members. Resources: <https://www.napaba.org/page/HateCrimeResources>
- Support local businesses owned/operated by Asian Americans.
- Reach out to elected officials to condemn hate and discrimination against Asian Americans.
- Become an advocate for civil rights protections and social justice for Asian Americans.
- Donate to local non-profit organizations that support the Asian American community.
- Take a bystander intervention training class on social media sites like www.ihollaback.org.
- Support expansion of Carolina's course offerings to include more Asian American studies.

Earlier this month, UNC Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz acknowledged the spike in violence against Asian Americans and encouraged support for the Asian American community through the work and available resources of Carolina's Asian American Center, which opened this past fall on the Chapel Hill campus.

“Carolina is unified and steadfast in its commitment to celebrate and embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are proud to care for one another, provide for each other's well-being, and build a community where everyone, regardless of identity or background, can enjoy a sense of safety and belonging,” Guskiewicz said in a statement. “We stand in unity with our Asian American community and denounce hatred, bigotry and racism in all its forms.”

We stand with Asian Americans and we believe what the Chancellor said is true: “Education and engagement are powerful forces in combating stereotypes and bias that contribute to these attacks.”

– The UNC Alumni Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity