

Naming, Understanding, and Taking Action Against Anti-Asian Racism

NNU mourns the loss of the eight people murdered in the racist, sexist attack in Georgia on March 16. We understand that our first steps are addressing the immediate needs of our Asian communities that are suffering in the aftermath of this attack—along with many other acts of racist violence targeting people of Asian descent. NNU stands strong in our commitment to eradicating racism wherever it operates—from violent attacks, to government policy, to workplace discrimination, to the long history of white supremacy.

We are in solidarity with frontline organizations' calls for community-centered responses that address Asian communities' immediate needs, reject police and punitive solutions, and invest in "long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence and hate in our communities."¹

Understanding the root causes of violence requires us to examine deep and unhealed historical wounds that shape our society, including:

- ▶ Racist immigration and naturalization laws, such as the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, 1917 Asiatic Barred Zone, and Immigration Act of 1924.
- ▶ Racist state policy, such as the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and post 9/11 surveillance targeting Muslim and South Asian communities.
- ▶ Racism in the labor movement, including white-led unions promoting exclusion of Asian workers and anti-Asian restrictive laws.
- ▶ Sexism, misogyny, and the devaluation of Asian women's labor such as the 1875 Page Act, the U.S. military's serial sexual abuse of women in East Asia, and derogatory media depictions of AAPI women.

Our fight against anti-Asian racism and racism targeting Black, Indigenous, Brown, and all people of color must:

- ▶ **Prioritize holistic and sustainable solutions** for community safety proposed by organizations rooted in working communities.
- ▶ **End workplace discrimination** and anti-worker policies (such as right to work legislation) that disproportionately impact workers of color and immigrant workers.
- ▶ **Develop the leadership of our members of color** and empower workers to be community and political advocates for racial justice.
- ▶ **Hold accountable politicians and government officials** who use hateful or xenophobic language or advance xenophobic domestic or foreign policies.
- ▶ **Support legislation** that puts an end to violent immigration and containment policies.
- ▶ **Ensure robust and equal access** to health care, housing, and education.

¹ <https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org/aaajcommunitystatement>



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