



## AAPI Hate Crime Statement

The South Coast Interfaith Council (SCIC) calls on people of faith and conscience to unite in condemnation of violence and hate against targeted ethnic groups. It is a grave violation of humanity and the Divine to take the life of another human being. The targeting of our AAPI community members inflicts serious damage on each and every one of us individually. A crime against any community is a crime against us all. Hate must not have a home in America or anywhere.

Last week's horrific news of yet another assault on the AAPI community, this time killing of *Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng in Atlanta*, is an unspeakable tragedy for the families of the victims. These 8 victims were mothers, daughters, sons, parents, and friends to those in their community, and our hearts go out to those who are suffering an unfathomable loss of their loved one.

[Stop AAPI Hate](#), which tracks violence and harassment against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, reported 3,800 "hate incidents" from last March to the end of February. The real number of incidents is likely higher, the group says.

Hate crimes targeting Asian Americans in the country's largest cities last year jumped 150% even as overall hate crimes declined, according to a report released earlier this year by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University. It is important to note that these crimes have existed throughout American history, but have risen significantly in wake of the rhetoric surrounding the current pandemic. Our AAPI community has been living in fear this past year in the shadow of escalating racial discrimination and attacks. This latest series of murders only heightens that terror.

Hate crimes hurts all of us, and we all must do more to create societies where people are able to go about their lives free from violence.

The SCIC calls upon our communities to rally in support of the following:

- Fighting stereotypes about and malice toward women and other groups in society
- Combatting hate and aggression, specifically toward Asian and Pacific Islanders
- Proclaiming the sacredness of life, regardless of the race, gender, ethnicity, orientation, faith tradition, or origin of our neighbors.

We, as people of faith in the SCIC, are horrified, outraged and devastated by this violence. We stand together against xenophobia, against any hate crimes committed against Asian Americans or anyone in our communities, and against any degradation, oppression, or violence against women. The SCIC remains committed to eliminating hate and injustice and creating communities defined by compassion, respect, peace and love of one another.

