



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AACHI Condemns Anti-Asian Hate and Calls for Solidarity

Austin, TX — Austin Asian Community Health Initiative joins with the families, friends, and communities grieving the murders of Soon C. Park, Hyun J. Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong A. Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng in the March 16, 2021 attacks on Young Asian Massage in Cherokee County and Gold Spa and Aroma Therapy Spa in Atlanta. An initial response from the Captain of the Sheriff's office in Cherokee County, where the first shooting took place, suggested that the acts of violence were not racially motivated. This assessment was later reasserted by FBI Director Christopher Wray. Instead, the motive is described as a sex addict's attempt to "eliminate temptation" by murdering women in spas he has likely visited in the past.

Despite the authorities' assessments, AACHI strongly condemns these murders as an undeniable instance of the [ongoing](#) and [increasing](#) violence against Asian Americans in the United States. Those familiar with the experiences of Asian Americans throughout US history can see in these attacks the dangerous mix of racism, sexism, and labor exploitation that has long put communities of color, and particularly the women within those communities, at increased risk for violence. The perpetrator's fixation on Asian women as sexual temptation is part of a [long history of racist sexualization](#) of Asian women as exotic and submissive. [One in four Asian Americans](#) are employed in jobs that are considered "essential," which exposes them to the dual threat of contracting COVID-19 and being harassed by a public who has been encouraged to perceive the pandemic as a hoax perpetrated by malicious Asian governments.

These acts of violence are far from an isolated incident of one man "having a bad day." They are tied to anti-Asian sentiments that exist at the federal, state, and local levels. As such, they demand a communal response. They require a robust and unequivocal condemnation of anti-Asian violence by our federal, state, and local leaders accompanied by concrete actions and initiatives at all governmental levels to redress and prevent future crimes. They also invite a renewed commitment to solidarity and coalition-building among advocacy movements and organizations. The White supremacy, misogyny, and exploitation that enabled these murders are the same White supremacy, misogyny, and exploitation that jeopardize all communities of color, women, and working-class folks. Let us match our grief with determination to fight for the wellbeing of all our marginalized communities.

If you or someone you know have experienced xenophobia, discrimination, or harassment, please report the hate incident at <https://stopaapihate.org/>.

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The Austin Asian Community Health Initiative (AACHI) partners with marginalized Asian communities in Austin to enhance public health and well-being. We fulfill our mission through language-specific education, advocacy, and healthcare navigation services.

