

STATEMENT FROM OREGON'S ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

We are angry and heartbroken by the recent murders of eight people, including six Asian women in Atlanta, Georgia amidst a rise in Anti-Asian violence and hate crimes across the country.

As members of Asian and Asian American communities in Portland, Oregon, we denounce the murders of Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Yan, and Daoyou Feng, and several others who have not yet been named. We send our heartfelt condolences to the families whose lives have been forever changed by the sudden loss of their loved ones.

The past year has seen documented increases in hate crimes against Asian Americans, especially Asian women and elders, throughout the country. These acts of bigotry are part of a pattern of racism, misogyny, and xenophobia, and the misguided reaction to the coronavirus pandemic fueled by hateful rhetoric from elected leaders. We strongly denounce these hate crimes and deadly assaults on community members and stand in support of the victims and the families who have suffered pain and loss.

It is not by coincidence that Asian women have been disproportionately harmed. Asian women are fetishized and marginalized, treated as sex objects and are easy targets of violence. These women are our grandmothers, aunties, sisters, wives, partners, cousins, and daughters. They all are powerful and respected, and worthy of our love and protection.

Anti-Asian racism is nothing new. Our country has a long history of violence targeting Asian people, including the Chinese Exclusion Act and the forced removal and incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during World War II. We are tired of a nation that treats our people as “forever foreign” and outsiders, who do not see us, our families, and our friends as equal.

The root causes of senseless violence are dangerous—racism, white supremacy, and prejudice must be stopped. We must protect our communities from this violence and continue to fight against hate and oppression. There is no justification for acts of violence and prejudice against Asian Americans or any racial or ethnic group. We join in support of all people of color.



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OF PORTLAND

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JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE

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