



March 31, 2021

The members of the LGBTQ+ Staff and Faculty Caucus at Louisiana State University stand in solidarity with the victims of the March 16, 2021 mass shootings in Atlanta, their families, and communities. The murders of Xiaojie Tanj, Delaina Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Daoyou Feng, Yong Ae Yue, Hyun Jung Grant, Soon Chung Park, and Suncha Kim are a chilling reminder of the vulnerabilities all members of minoritized groups face in the US and elsewhere.

The shootings remind us that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) experience specific and enduring forms of oppression that have been especially prominent in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, but are also longstanding functions of colonization and racism. As a group made of intersectional identities we feel the LGBTQ+ community has a specific responsibility to amplify our AAPI voices in these times of increased violence. We must acknowledge the profound impacts many have made through activism, artistry, and public service. We would also like to use this platform to let those in the AAPI community know that we see these acts of racist and misogynistic violence against you, and you are not alone in this fight.

We as a community must denounce white supremacy, which created and sustains racist, misogynistic violence. Enduring and violent tropes regarding Asian bodies motivated this massacre, particularly the hypersexualization of Asian women. We condemn such misogynist and racist thinking in the strongest possible terms, for our community knows too well how deadly gender and sexual stereotypes can be.

Robert Aaron Long committed these murders, but did not act alone. The cruel actions of this white man in Atlanta are compounded by police, media, and other institutions which dismiss, excuse, or minimize the actions of white criminals. To blame sexual temptation or “having a bad day” for this racist and misogynistic act is to absolve the myriad legacies of oppression at play in the wake of this tragedy. It also amounts to blaming the victims for their own murders and once again refusing to ask that men take responsibility for their own violent acts.

L G B T Q +
Faculty & Staff Caucus

One cannot claim to support LGBTQ+ rights without also advocating for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The shooter who murdered eight people, most of them Asian American women, claimed he did so out of religious shame and a desire to “remove temptation.” Those of us in the LGBTQ+ community know all too well that shame, whether it be our own or others’, can be deadly.

We express our heartbreak in the aftermath of these murders, and our solidarity with all the intersecting identities impacted by them. We also acknowledge that this response, a retroactive public statement, is not the work which we as individuals or as an LGBTQ+ collective need to do in order to address white supremacist, colonial violence. Rather, we felt it was important to let our Asian community know that we see what is happening and that we stand with them.

We hope this statement may serve as a first step toward a renewed commitment to confronting anti-Asian bigotry in the LSU community. Moreover, we encourage you to take the second step as individuals by reviewing these links to educational and action based resources that amplify Asian American voices.

Stories:

[Stories Collected by Asian Americans Advancing Justice](#)

[Asian American Stories in the Time of Coronavirus](#)

Organizations with calls to action:

[Stop AAPI Hate](#)

[National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum](#)