

Joint Statement Condemning Racialized and Gendered Violence Against Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander Communities from the Women's and Gender Studies Department and the Race and Ethnic Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

Violence and hate incidents against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in all states across all age groups have increased by nearly 150% from 2020-2021. The recent shootings in Georgia are only the latest example of anti-Asian hate crimes. This is a senseless loss of life that highlights the need to intentionally anticipate and intervene in anti Asian American and Pacific Islander violence. While hate incidents have been reported by all genders, women are 2.3 times more likely than men to report hate incidents. AAPI report hate crimes ranging from verbal harassment to physical assault, workplace discrimination, and refusal of service. Anti-Asian discrimination has historical roots in American institutions, constructions of citizenship, and deep-seated American xenophobia. Asian women have long borne the brunt of these discriminations , facing not only constructions of difference but also hyper-exotification and othering. This violence has escalated dramatically because of disinformation circulating about COVID-19, and we must speak out against it. We condemn all the acts of hate and violence toward Asian Americans. Elders have been pushed to the ground and died from their injuries. Our neighbors have been spit on, yelled at, and refused service. This week, 6 women were targeted and then blamed for their own deaths. At the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the Race and Ethnic Studies Program and Women's and Gender Studies Department stands in solidarity with the Asian American, Asian, and Pacific Islander communities at UW-W and beyond. We condemn these acts of violence and will continue fighting back against the intersections of racism and misogyny in our classrooms, in our service, for our colleagues, and for our students.