



The Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention (ASAAP) extends our deepest condolences and fiercest outrage in solidarity with our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) family in the wake of the unconscionable and bigoted attacks on these communities in Atlanta, Georgia.

ASAAP grieves with the communities and individuals who now carry the weight of this loss forward with them. The names of the eight people who were killed are:

- Delaina Ashley Yaun, 33;
- Paul Andre Michels, 54;
- Xiaojie Tan, 49;
- Daoyou Feng, 44.
- Soon Chung Park, 74;
- Hyun Jung Grant, 51;
- Suncha Kim, 69; and,
- Yong Ae Yue, 63

At a time of such immeasurable loss, this misogynistic, racist act seems especially inhuman. Violence against Asian sex workers flourishes when the state criminalizes sex workers, isolates them from services and supports, and when broader society stigmatizes women who perform this work, pushing them into the margins. This is as true in the US as it is in Canada. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, violence and hate against East & South East Asians--especially Asian women--has intensified at an alarming rate.¹

ASAAP echoes the demands made by organizations in Canada advocating for the safety and wellbeing of sex workers and massage parlour workers, and of Asian women who do this work, in particular. These demands include the full decriminalization of sex work, regularization of immigration status, greater protection for precarious workers, regulation and in some cases, the outright ban on the sale of some classes of weapons. In Toronto, ASAAP supports **Butterfly Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Network**, which remains outspoken on the needs of migrants, Asian Canadians, and women in the sex work industry, and has announced [8 calls for justice](#). We also support **Asian Community AIDS Services**, which serves people of East and Southeast Asian ancestry who face stigma and marginalization. At ASAAP, we commit to doing the hard work of ensuring our programs and services support people through the fullness of their intersecting identities. We will continue to uphold and sustain stigma reduction around sex work, in particular.

The true test of our solidarity extends beyond emergencies. Doubtless, this is a time of grief for the victims' families and loved ones, but this cruel act also highlights a deep-seated problem in Canadian and American society--one with its roots in the xenophobic, white supremacist origins of these two nations. In Canada, we have a duty to face this history and acknowledge its enduring effects on society today. The steps we take should not only be reactive to tragedy, but should also actively contribute to protecting and empowering sex workers, migrants, and anyone else facing marginalization due to their gender, racial identity, employment, immigration status, or other vector of precarity. We have a responsibility to build and nourish anti-racist institutions, and to name and eradicate even the murmurs of prejudice in all its forms.

In solidarity,

ASAAP Board of Directors

Starter resources to educate, donate, agitate, and organize:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/asian-community-aids-services/>

<https://www.butterflysw.org/>

<https://www.maggiesto.org/covid19>

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Resource_Libraries/AAPI_Resources.aspx

<https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

<https://asianamericanstudies.cornell.edu/anti-racism-resources-aapi-community>

¹ In a report released in July 2020, Statistics Canada wrote that the proportion of visible minorities who experienced an increase in harassment or attacks based on their race, ethnicity, or skin colour has tripled compared to the rest of the population since the start of the pandemic; however, the largest increase was seen among Chinese, Korean, and Southeast Asian individuals. See: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/45-28-0001/2020001/article/00046-eng.htm>