



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Office of Mayor William Peduto

Gender Equity Commission

March 23, 2021

One week ago, 8 people were murdered in Atlanta, GA, including 7 women, and 6 were Asian and Asian American women: Delaina Ashley Yaun Gonzalez, 33; Daoyou Feng, 44; Xiaojie Tan, 49; Hyun Jung Grant, 51; Paul Andre Michels, 54; Yong Ae Yue, 63; Suncha Kim, 69; Soon Chung Park, 74. Over the course of the week we have heard from politicians, community leaders, activists, and Pittsburghers calling for an end to race- and gender-based violence. This horrific incident has drawn attention to the impact of such violence on Asian and Asian-appearing women in the US, who live at the intersections of race and anti-Asian discrimination, gender discrimination, the fetishization of Asian women, and the harmful myth of the “model minority” imposed upon them. Those who sit at these intersecting identities are particularly vulnerable right now to discrimination, stigma, and trauma.

AAPIs (Asian American and Pacific Islanders) have been part of America for centuries, and there is also a long history of [anti-Asian racism in the U.S.](#), which often spikes at times of national hardship. Asian or Asian-appearing people are racialized, and Asian women have historically faced objectification.

Hate crimes against Asians in the US have risen in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, there was a 150% spike in reported cases, according to [an analysis](#) by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. And most experts agree that hate crimes are under-counted, meaning this estimate is just the tip of the iceberg.

The City of Pittsburgh Gender Equity Commission exists to support a more equitable city for all residents and to help end discrimination against women, girls, and gender-diverse people. As our Executive Director anupama jain stated during the vigil in front of the Pittsburgh City-County Building on Sunday, March 21st, “until we are all safe, no one is safe.” Our work is, and will continue to be, intersectional in nature, because we know this violence will not end unless we call out the root causes of white supremacy, patriarchy, and those systems and sentiments that support them.

Please visit our website at www.pittsburghpa.gov/gec for more information and resources to support victims and learn about how to engage in and support anti-racism and anti-discrimination.

If you see a hate crime occur, call 9-1-1. Non-emergency hate crimes and discriminatory acts should be reported to local or state police. For more information on reporting and combating hate, visit: www.attorneygeneral.gov/protect-yourself/civil-rights/combating-hate-crime/.