

**NOW CONDEMNS ALL FORMS OF ANTI-ASIAN HATE
AND COMMITS TO CENTERING APA VOICES**

WHEREAS, Asian and Pacific American (APA) or Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) refers to descendants “of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, South Asia, or the Pacific Islands”; and

WHEREAS, the grouping encompasses an extremely diverse population of ethnicities and cultures from countries such as China, Japan, Philippines, Samoa, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bhutan; and

WHEREAS, aggregating these diverse groups for the purposes of study and funding can lead to harmful perpetuation of stereotypes such as the ‘model minority myth,’ which can lead to underfunding of resources in minority communities in need; and

WHEREAS, AAPI persons often face discrimination as ‘perpetual foreigners,’ and Anti-Asian sentiment is not a recent development; and

WHEREAS, racial discrimination and violence are pervasive and persisting challenges for country and society as a whole, rooted deeply at an interpersonal and institutional level; and

WHEREAS, the existence of anti-Asian legislation and anti-Asian sentiment from government leaders has been historically prevalent in the United States, from the Chinese Exclusion Act in the 1880s to Japanese Internment in the 1940s, and leaders calling the COVID-19 virus a “Chinese virus” in 2020; and

WHEREAS, there have been over 6,600 reports of anti-Asian incidents, which include both hate crimes and incidents of violence or discrimination, collected between March 2020 and March 2021 by Stop AAPI Hate, a nationwide reporting site; and

WHEREAS, AAPI women and girls report these hate incidents 2.2 times as often as AAPI men, and AAPI non-binary people have also reported experiencing heightened incidents of hate; and

WHEREAS, tropes such as Geishas and stories of American GIs from the Far East have led to the hyper sexualization, fetishization, and stereotyping of Asian women and may have contributed to the horrific incident in Atlanta where on March 16, 2021, eight people, six of whom were Asian women, were killed in a shooting spree at three spas or massage; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Stop AAPI Hate Youth Campaign found that 1 in 4 young Asian Americans under 20 years old have personally experienced anti-Asian hate amid the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, intersectional anti-racism work is not transactional, and allyship with Black people and other communities of color should not divert attention from also aiding Asian communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that National Organization for Women (NOW) condemns all racially motivated attacks and incidents of discrimination against the Asian community, nationally and globally; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW commits to raising awareness both inside and outside its organization of the unique challenges faced by APA communities and their women in particular; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will call for disaggregation of Census, health and other data so that differences among subgroups may be realized and those communities may be better served; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW members, local and state chapters, will ALL work together towards our collective liberation by dismantling systems that uphold white supremacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW will commit to uplifting and centering APA voices within its organization and ensure use of language that is inclusive and that does not erase or deem preference for one minority group over another; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOW will create sustained programming and outreach to the APA community through membership recruitment and collaborative partnership with APA-focused organizations such as National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF).

Author: Anjali Mehrotra, Union County NOW chapter—NJ. Date Submitted: July 9, 2021