



April 6, 2021

**RE: Anti-Asian Violence**

On March 16, 2021, eight lives were lost to a racist and misogynistic white man. Six of those lives belonged to women within the Asian community. This was a targeted attack linked to white supremacist ideologies. We here at APUS mourn with the Asian community and we are angry. This attack was not an isolated incident. It is another violent act in a series of anti-Asian racism that has worsened throughout the pandemic. Let's make sure one thing is clear: COVID-19 is a global pandemic. It is not connected to a race or ethnicity. The fact that we are seeing people use the virus as a scapegoat for their racist and discriminatory behaviour is disheartening and infuriating. Now lives have been lost. This is a crisis.

It has been three weeks since the horrific loss of life and it is important that we remember that anti-Asian racism is an ongoing problem here in Canada. On March 23, 2021, The Chinese Canadian National Council released a report that recorded 1,150 racist attacks against Asian Canadians since the start of the pandemic, 507 of which were logged in the span of two months. 11% of those attacks involved assault or non-consensual physical contact. This spike in anti-Asian racism and discrimination builds on a deep history of anti-Asian rhetoric. What we are witnessing is not new, it is ingrained within the colonialist and patriarchal foundations of our institutions. This building violence is a sign that we have failed our Asian communities. We won't be silent as we recognize that action must be taken now.

To the incredible Asian student communities at the University of Toronto, we see you. During a time where folks are experiencing isolation and loneliness, know that we continue to dedicate ourselves to advocating for the safety and protection of Asian communities on campus and in Toronto at-large. Nobody should be subjected to racist and discriminatory violence. For those of us who are not from an Asian community, we stand in solidarity and allyship with you. We promise to continue to unlearn anti-Asian thoughts or behaviour we may be unaware of, and in turn educate other folks who may be engaging in anti-Asian behaviour. This is not a time to be silent. As we continue to navigate the pandemic, know that we are available to students who may be experiencing anti-Asian discrimination. If you need someone to listen, we are here.

In Solidarity,

The Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students