



## **We stand strong with our community to condemn and combat anti-Asian hate crimes**

The Center for Asia Health Equity at the University of Chicago Medicine and our community partner, the Asian Health Coalition is standing strong with the Asian American community amidst the recent massacre in Atlanta that took eight lives, six of whom were Asian Women.

While individuals of Asian descent have long faced discrimination, since the start of the pandemic, we have seen a rapid rise in harassment and violence nationwide, particularly targeting Asian women and seniors. The cause of these recent anti-Asian sentiments and violence stems from the unacceptable, yet widespread xenophobic and racist labeling of the COVID-19 pandemic as the “Chinese Virus,” “Wuhan Virus,” or “Kung Flu” scapegoating the Asian community for the spread of COVID-19. The recent incident in Atlanta has also exposed the long history of fetishized and negative stereotypes toward Asian women. We must stand strong together to speak out against racist and misogynistic behavior and attitudes and demand action to eradicate these anti-Asian sentiments across our country.

**We demand** justice for all victims of hate crimes and their families.

**We demand** fair coverage of anti-Asian hate crimes by the media.

**We demand** exposure and condemnation of those who promote and exacerbate violent and discriminatory acts against Asian communities.

**We demand** telling the life stories of the victims so that they will be remembered and humanized, not further stereotyped.

**We demand** culturally and linguistically appropriate resources to support survivors of hate crimes and their families to meet their health and safety needs.

**We demand** social justice initiatives, like bystander intervention training, to combat racism.

**We demand** support for those healthcare and frontline workers especially those of Asian descent who face daily threats of violence and racial slurs at or near their workplace.

**We demand** support for each Asian American community and all who are physically and linguistically isolated because of this COVID-19 pandemic to have the opportunity to live, learn in play in safe and supportive environments.

The Center for Asia Health Equity at the University of Chicago Medicine and our community partner, the Asian Health Coalition, are strong advocates for human equality and health equity and we condemn any form of sexism, racism, discrimination, and violence. We call on ALL communities and neighborhoods across the country to join arms as we walk in lockstep together to challenge the status quo and emerge on the other side not only as educators but as those who have been educated by intolerance.