



March 17, 2021

Congressman Jerrold Nadler
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Steve Cohen,
Chair, Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil
Liberties Subcommittee
2104 Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Jim Jordan,
Ranking Member,
House Judiciary Committee
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Mike Johnson
Ranking Member, Constitution, Civil Rights
and Civil Liberties Subcommittee
568 Cannon House Building,
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans*

Dear Chairman Nadler, Ranking Member Jordan, Congressman Cohen and Congressman Johnson,

As the Judiciary Committee considers the impact of discrimination and violence against Asian Americans, we urge members to consider the unique ways in which anti-Asian violence and discrimination intersect with gender-based violence and misogyny.

While the specific details about the tragic shootings of eight people in Atlanta, GA on Tuesday are still emerging, the violence against the six women of Asian descent is not isolated. The Asian American and Pacific Islander community across the United States is reeling from escalated levels of harassment and assaults. We cannot ignore the reality that Anti-Asian hate and violence disproportionately impacts women and girls. The intersection of racism, misogyny, and xenophobia, has been showing up exponentially in the violence the AAPI community has been experiencing over the last year.

As reported by STOP AAPI Hate, from March 19, 2020 through February 28, 2021, almost 3800 incidents of Anti-Asian harassment and violence have been tracked by their reporting center.¹ Stop AAPI Hate reports that Asian American women and girls are three times more likely than men to report violence or harassment. In addition, recent polling commissioned by the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) has revealed that nearly half

¹ [https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/there-were-3-800-anti-asian-racist-incidents-mostly-against-n1261257?](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/there-were-3-800-anti-asian-racist-incidents-mostly-against-n1261257?hpid=hp_trending-top-news%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women have been affected by anti-Asian racism in the past two years. Violence against women against AAPI's is so common that it's embedded in our culture, and it is often minimized or ignored until it manifests in lethal violence.

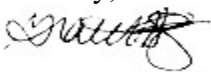
Research further shows that common motive of those who commit mass shootings is misogyny or a history of violence against women.² As the committee considers responses to anti-Asian violence, it is imperative to do so by addressing the intersections with violence against women, girls and transgender and gender non-conforming communities, as well as immigrant communities. While the House has recently considered the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, there are additional opportunities to address gender-based violence in AAPI communities.

We join our colleagues in the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in calling for investment in our communities and in communities of color. There is an urgent need for resources to prevent and mitigate the impacts of violence and harm. Congress must **improve access and investment in-language resources to address** healthcare, food, housing, immigration concerns, legal issues, employment, and economic supports to reduce the vulnerability of many in our communities to exploitation and trauma. Meaningful investment in culturally specific prevention and responses to gender-based violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking continue to be sorely needed.

In addition, to address the vulnerability to members of AAPI communities who have insecure immigration status, **we urge Congress to put forth policies that support targeted members of our communities to come forward to access help without fear.** Strengthening and expanding immigration protections for victims of hate crime acts and violence must be a priority.

In summary, we urge Congress to ensure that attention to the gendered nature of anti-Asian hate is incorporated as you move forward you to devise legislative responses. Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at gjuang@api-gbv.org.

Sincerely,



Grace Huang
Director of Policy
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/10/us/mass-shootings-misogyny-dayton.html>