

Friends,

The words "outraged" and "heartbroken" are understatements. For years we have seen the violent ends of violent rhetoric. Hate-filled speech leads to hate-fueled action, insidiously surging across the United States, destroying lives and devastating communities.

Cries for justice ring loudly today following targeted shootings that claimed the lives of eight people in Atlanta-area massage parlors. Six Asian women and two other people are victims of the shootings, raising national concern that the attacks may be hate crimes against individuals of Asian descent.

Crimes targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander communities have risen dramatically since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Data collected over the past year on hate crimes against the Asian community in the United States showed nearly 3,800 instances of discrimination and targeted violence.

As we strive to create a country that more firmly upholds inclusivity and recognizes the humanity in us all, we must do better to protect our Asian communities.

It should go without saying, but unfortunately it must be said: **Hate crimes are unacceptable and intolerable.**

The Lawyers' Committee stands in solidarity with our brothers and sisters who are coping with this heartbreaking loss and we join them in demanding justice.

Standing against hate,

P.S. Click <u>here</u> to learn more about our fight to stop hate.



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