



**Statement from Asian Americans in Action:  
We Are Outraged by the Atlanta Area Massacre.**

March 17, 2021

Asian Americans in Action, a non-profit advocacy organization that elevates the voices and concerns of progressive Asian Americans in Orange County, CA, is devastated by the March 15, 2021 mass shooting directed at massage parlor workers in the metropolitan area of Atlanta, Georgia. Eight people were murdered, including six Asian women.

While the motive for the attack is not fully known, the perpetrator is reported to have a “sexual addiction” and purposely targeted Asian women. It was a hate crime motivated by race and sex. We cannot isolate this incident from the thousands of hate crimes, incidents, and rhetoric aimed at Asian Americans since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic one year ago. In Orange County alone, [StopAAPIHate](#) received 66 reports of anti-Asian incidents in 2020. Over 70 percent of the Orange County respondents were Asian women or transgender/gender non-confirming.

We are heartbroken and we are angry. Our organization, founded by Asian American women, recognizes the insidious and blatant ways that racism, xenophobia, and misogyny mutually reinforce each other and enable acts of violence like the one in Atlanta to occur. It is the same system that allowed the suspected mass murderer, a 21-year old white man, to be apprehended unharmed by law enforcement, while normalizing police violence and killings of Black and Brown lives. It is also yet another example of the ways gender-based violence is racialized.

Asian Americans in Action grieves with the victims’ family and friends. We remain committed to advancing racial justice for all, and we call on community members and policy makers to work with us to stop AAPI hate. We ask the public to join us in demanding that the Atlanta massacre be treated as a gender-based hate crime.