



ALMA COLLEGE

To: Alma College Community

From: Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board; Women's Issues Advisory Board

Date: March 21, 2021

We mourn the [losses of eight lives in the Atlanta area on March 16](#) at the hands of a mass shooter. Six of the victims—Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng—were employees in their workplaces; Delaina Ashley Yaun and Paul Andre Michels were clients at one of the locations. All the victims' families are in our thoughts at this time of unimaginable grief. We mourn as well the rippling effects of fear and insecurity in the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities targeted by the killer.

We strongly condemn the forces that explicitly gave rise to this act of violence, including misogyny, patriarchy, and dangerous sexual stereotypes about Asian women. In light of speculation that some of the victims were sex workers, we reject the notion that anyone must be “respectable” or a “perfect victim” to deserve empathy and a full human life. In addition, the nearly [3,800](#) reported anti-Asian incidents in the U.S. in the past year ([68% of which were directed at women](#)) make it necessary to call out the implicit factors of xenophobia, racism, and white supremacy. When these various forms of hatred and dehumanization intersect, it is often marginalized, working-class women, immigrants, and communities of color who pay the most devastating price.

We, the members of the DIAB and WIAB, stand in solidarity with everyone who experiences any form of gender- or race-based aggression or discrimination—and in this moment, especially with the Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islander Americans in our midst and in the world. We affirm the worth and dignity of every student, staff, and faculty member at Alma College, as well as our alumni and our neighbors in the City of Alma and beyond. We call for our college leaders to commit to the safety and full inclusion of every person in our diverse and ever-changing community.

AAPI members of campus, and anyone who has experienced racism or needs emotional support following this incident, can find help through the [Counseling Center](#), the [Civil Rights coordinator](#), the [Diversity & Inclusion Office](#), or the [Chaplain](#). Those not victimized by racism personally, but who would like to work toward being anti-racist allies, are encouraged to [educate themselves and find ways to take collaborative action](#).