

*Motion on a Response to Recent Hate Crimes Against the Asian American and Pacific Islander
Community*

Purpose: This motion is a response to the recent surge in hate crimes perpetrated against members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community across the United States. The COVID-19 Pandemic has exacerbated an undercurrent of pre-existing racial prejudices against the AAPI community. The recent Atlanta Spa Shootings which claimed the lives of eight individuals, six of whom were of Asian descent, illustrates the violence that can occur if racism is allowed to persist. It is the duty of the Colby Student Government Association (SGA) to reaffirm its commitment to supporting the AAPI community. It will take time for the AAPI community to heal in the wake of this violence, but we can support the community at this time by providing resources to educate each other on ways to take action against racially motivated hate.

The What: This motion condemns the recent rise in anti-AAPI violence and affirms the SGA's commitment to solidarity with members of the AAPI community. I am proposing that the SGA pass a formal statement reaffirming its support for the AAPI community against anti-Asian bigotry in the wake of a serial murder in Atlanta, Georgia which recently claimed the lives of six women of Asian descent as well as other chronic instances of systemic racism.

The How: This motion serves as both a symbol of the SGA's commitment to solidarity with the AAPI community and the SGA's encouragement to attend events raising awareness of AAPI violence. The formal statement will include information on Colby events that promote students to take action against AAPI hate as well as including links to fundraisers and organizations that advocate for the AAPI community.

Strengths and Importance: This proposal addresses equity, diversity, and the recognition of and respect for the AAPI community. We strive to raise awareness surrounding instances of racism during the pandemic that has roots established over a century ago. We believe it is important to honor those whose lives have been taken as a result of violent attacks against their race and hope that this serves as yet another reminder that structural racism exists in this country, as well as establish SGA's firm resolution against acts of racism and bigotry.

Possible Risk Areas: I do not see this action as carrying substantial risk. I believe it is the duty of the SGA to combat that which is against the College's values. Members of the AAPI community on campus need to know that the SGA stands beside them. There could be an argument of redundancy, that we are merely echoing the statements already issued by the College; however, we believe that SGA serves as the voice of the student body and needs to also offer its formal stance on the issue.

Intuition and Questions Already Addressed: The AAPI community has suffered from hatred and bigotry for over a century in the United States. From the Chinese Exclusion Act signed by President Chester A. Arthur in 1882, to the recent wave of bigoted attacks exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAPI community has consistently faced hostility in United States. Racist sentiments have too often turned into physical violence with the most recent example being the tragic Atlanta Spa Shootings which has claimed the lives of six women of Asian descent. We cannot ignore these racist attacks and it is our duty as members of the Colby Community and citizens of the United States to take a stand with the AAPI community against racism.

Contact Information for questioning, clarification, or pre-meeting critiques:

Name: Jason Leong

Year: 2022

Dorm: Dana 315

Phone #: (617) 921-7808

Email: jsleon22@colby.edu

Favorable Hours to Meet: By appointment

Name: Chris Cho

Year: 2024

Dorm:

Phone #:

Email:

Favorable Hours to Meet:

Name: Emily Kwen

Year: 2024

Dorm:

Phone #:

Email:

Favorable Hours to Meet:

Appendix

Letter to the Colby College Community:

To: The wider Colby College community

CC: All Colby Students, Faculty, and Staff

From: The Colby Student Government Association

Date: March 22, 2020

Subject: A Response to the Violence Against the AAPI Community

Given the recent increase in hate crimes against the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Colby Student Government Association believes that it is of the utmost importance to reaffirm its support for the AAPI community against hatred and bigotry. The SGA, as a representation of the student body, condemns racism and intolerance of all forms. We understand that there is nothing we can do to take away the fear and hurt that is currently affecting the AAPI community, but we as SGA will continue to uphold Colby College's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially in this time of great injustices in our country. The SGA encourages all members of the Colby Community to attend a gathering on **Miller Lawn at noon on Tuesday, March 23rd**, to honor the victims of the horrific shooting that occurred on March 16th in Atlanta, Georgia, and to stand in solidarity with Colby's AAPI community. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in collaboration with non-profit organizations, is providing a two-part workshop, "Recognizing and Responding to Anti-AAPI Hate and Xenophobia," between **5-7 p.m. on Monday, March 22nd and 29th**. To register for this workshop please contact Emily Schusterbauer (eeschust@colby.edu). The SGA recommends that students participate in this workshop that will provide training on how members of the Community can recognize and safely intervene when confronted with situations of anti-AAPI hate and xenophobia. Class Deans, the Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tayo Clyburn, as well as Colby Counseling Services are here to support you.

The SGA encourages you to use the resources listed below to educate yourself on the recent increase in racist attacks against the AAPI community in the United States and find ways to support the AAPI community in these troubling times.

Resources:

Anti-Asian Violence Resources: [Anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co](https://anti-asianviolenceresources.carrd.co)

AAPI Community Fund: [GoFundMe](https://gofundme.com/c/aaapi-community-fund)

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund: aaldef.org

Asian Americans Advancing Justice: advancingjustice-aaajc.org

Hate is a Virus Community Action Fund: [GoFundMe](https://gofundme.com/c/hate-is-a-virus)

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum: napawf.org

Stop AAPI Hate: stopaapihate.org

