

Stop Anti-Asian American Racism, Stop Destroying the Human Dignity

A Statement of the Korean Caucus of the New York Annual Conference

We, the Korean Caucus of the New York Annual Conference, condemn the murders of eight individuals (including six Asian-Americans) in Atlanta on March 16, 2021. Such crime destroys human dignity when Asian-American women become targets of racism and preys on sex trafficking. Increased Anti-Asian hate crimes and violence directing vulnerable populations threaten Asian-American wellbeing in the USA. We mourn for the lives taken by the vicious and violent sin of racism and sexism in the USA.

Anti-Asian racism is not new. The stigma of “alien” or “yellow peril” on Asian-Americans has been perpetuated in the political space. Specifically for most of U.S. history, Asian immigrants have been defined as racially ineligible for citizenship. Moreover, Anti-Asian racism has its deep root in both the racial and religious space, subjected as “other” and simultaneously as the “perpetual foreigner” and “heathen” in the white American Christian imagination.

Recent rhetoric around COVID-19 has led to an increase in hate crimes against the Asian-American communities. Since the beginning of the pandemic, nearly 3,800 incidents against Asian-Americans have been recorded, 503 of which have taken place in 2021 alone. Attacks against women and elderly citizens make up a disproportionate share of these hate-crimes. All of this is yet another deadly consequence of the sin and the evil acts of white supremacy.

We proclaim that racism is antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Once again, we call ourselves to interrogate our personal and collective biases, lamenting the language we use and the stereotypes we perpetuate in light of current racial hate crimes and acts of violence targeting people of color and particularly those who are vulnerable. Our faithful work of making disciples of Jesus Christ will never end until we have successfully done the anti-racist work while defending the least, the lost, and the last among us.

Action items:

1. We request the New York Annual Conference to treat Asian-Americans as “us” and “co-workers in Christ” by strategically positioning Asian-Americans within the conference center to combat sex trafficking problems in the New York City area in conjunction with the work of anti-racism.
2. We commit to raising awareness and resources during the month of March (National Women’s History Month) and May (Asian Pacific American Heritage Month) to create and provide a ministry that safeguards vulnerable population—children, women, elderly, and disabled—among us who are prone to racism, sexism, sex trafficking, ageism, ableism, etc.
3. We commit to spearheading action items #1 & #2 by becoming active collaborators and accountability partners with the New York Annual Conference.
4. We commit to collecting past, present, and future incidents of Anti-Asian American hate crime to provide and utilize necessary data toward making equitable policy within the New York Annual Conference.

Korean Caucus of New York Annual Conference

Resources to Learn More:

<https://stopaapihate.org> (national) / <https://www.aafederation.org> (New York-based)

Report an Incident:

stopaapihate.com (national) / e-mail at nyackoreanamerican@gmail.com (NYAC)