

## **March 2021 PAWNY Statement in Solidarity with Asian American/Pacific Islander Community**

PAWNY and the Anti Racism Task Force stand in solidarity with the Asian American/Pacific Islander community in response to the horrific attack in Atlanta, Georgia this past week which resulted in the deaths of eight people, six of whom were Asian American women. On the heels of a year in which incidents of violent crime, bias, xenophobia and misogyny against the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community have risen sharply, our Asian and Asian American colleagues, friends, family members and clients may be experiencing trauma responses such as significant fear and hypervigilance. As APA indicated, whether or not these events are classified as hate crimes, the resulting trauma they produce is the same. And as stated by NYSPA, the murders in Atlanta are the most recent example of the ongoing violence against Asian Americans in the United States, and specifically Asian American women--highlighting an intersectional experience that compounds the discrimination faced. As reported by Stop AAPI Hate: there were 3,795 hate incidents received by the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021, with women reporting incidents 2.3 times more than men.

We agree with APA that it is imperative for all Americans to immediately “cease using anti-Asian terms when discussing the pandemic” and that there is a critical need to provide culturally competent mental health services for those impacted. We strongly support NYSPA’s advocacy for a requirement of psychology CE credits pertaining to the subject of diversity, equity, and inclusion for licensure in New York State. We will release a special edition of our resource blast this month with articles and resources pertinent to understanding and interrupting racism against Asian American/Pacific Islanders to support the provision of culturally competent care for those in the WNY community whom we serve.

We would also like to encourage our membership to read the powerful statement issued by NYSPA today. It is not yet available on the website but we will forward it for anyone who is not a NYSPA member or did not receive it already.

The full APA statement can be found here:

[APA Press Release - Atlanta Shootings](#)

The statistics cited above can be found here:

[Stop AAPI Hate National Report](#)

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