

Dear AEGT learning community,

On behalf of the Asian Preconference committee (a preconference of AERC), we would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest condolence to the families of the eight people, including six women of Asian descent, who were murdered at three separate spas in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16, 2021. We mourn the loss of life and grieve with the families broken by this racist, misogynistic hate crime. We condemn the horrific acts of hate and violence targeting the Asian and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, culminating in the tragic mass shooting distributing shockwaves across the United States.

Anti-Asian racism is not an isolated incident, nor is it new; it has a long history, but the rise started at the beginning of COVID-19. We have witnessed great sadness and dismay a nationwide increase in the number of hate crimes committed against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) because they are fueled by dangerous false rhetoric surrounding COVID-19. These incidents have incited, and they are rooted in a long history of racism and bias.

"Silence allows hatred to flourish; discussion and accountability weed it from the root." As adult educators, Asians, and Asian Americans, we want to challenge ourselves; we want to challenge our academic communities to recognize anti-Asian racism's painful history. We value you, our learning community colleagues, your support, and your help. Together let us learn to understand and prevent AAPI individuals from experiencing fear, anger, hurt, and frustration and provide possible service and support to help *StopAsianHate*. We encourage all of us to use the power and privilege we have to stand up against bigotry. We want to unite, not divide! We want to stand together with solidarity and compassion.

The Asian Preconference Steering Committee