



Statement of Solidarity with Asian/Asian American Community

“In a racist society it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist.”
----Angela Davis from 1979 statement.

Anti-Asian racism has been rampant since the start of COVID-19 a year ago, with former President Donald Trump referring to it as a “Chinese Virus.” Since then we have witnessed a surge of anti-Asian hate crimes, including the recent shooting outside of Atlanta Georgia occurring on March 16, 2021, which killed eight people, six being Asian/Asian American women. This was a white supremacist and misogynistic act of domestic terrorism. The faculty in the Department of African American Studies at CSU Fullerton condemn this act of hate and stand in solidarity with the Asian/Asian American community at Cal State Fullerton and beyond.

We understand the recent hate crimes targeting Asian/Asian Americans reflects a long history of racism against Asian/Americans from the Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) passed by Congress after Chinese workers build the transcontinental railroad, to the Japanese Internment camps during World War II that forced Japanese Americans from their homes after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American man living in Michigan, who was mistaken for being Japanese and murdered by two white men when the U.S. was in competition with Japan’s auto industry.

We also acknowledge the unique position of Asian/Asian American women in anti-Asian racist violence from being viewed as hypersexualized in media and film, to the sexual violence against Asian/Asian American women from acts of war overseas and here in the United States. For example, the 1982 murder of Korean novelist, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, who was raped and murdered by a security guard in New York City shortly after the publication of her novel *Dictee*.

The Department of African American Studies recognizes the connections with anti-Asian and anti-Black violence, which claimed the lives of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. We understand both to be examples of white supremacy, which calls for solidarity. It is in this spirit that we remember Black/Asian alliances, such as Huey Newton and Martin Luther King condemning of the Vietnam War, to W.E.B. Du Bois’ visiting China during the Cold War, and the political activism of Asian American women, such as Grace Lee Boggs, and Yuri Kochiyama, a long-time friend of Malcolm X.

We also reflect on the recent acts of solidarity by various local activist groups consisting of Black, Asian/Asian, Latinx, Indigenous, and LGBTIQ people who are fighting against these intersectional white supremacist forces and forging a better world.

Sincerely,
On behalf of the faculty of African American Studies,

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