



US WOMEN'S CAUCUS AT THE UN

Statement Deploring Attacks on Asian-American Women in Georgia

March 21, 2021

The US Women's Caucus at the UN extends its sincere condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the victims of the horrific shooting in Georgia on March 16, 2021. We regret that this terrible attack against predominantly Asian-American women must be added to the 3,800 recorded attacks, both verbal or physical, against Asian-Americans last year. Each and every one of these attacks against Asian-Americans must be condemned without reservation. There should be no tolerance shown to any hateful rhetoric against Asians or any other ethnic group.

Captain Jay Baker of the Cherokee County Sheriff's office in Georgia characterized the attacker as just "having a really bad day." Statements like this are offensive and an affront to accountability. Misogyny, racism, and violence are deeply intertwined. We believe that how we call attention to these issues is crucial.

The fact that most of the victims were women of Asian descent shows the trifecta intersection of the dangerous threads in our society today - racism, sexism, and violence against women. Asian women are particularly vulnerable due to the erroneous stereotype of Asian women that has added to their objectification and sexualization. All of these issues must continue to be actively denounced by government leaders and addressed promptly by the judicial system.

The Women's Caucus at the UN strongly supports the COVID Hate Crime Act (HR 6721) introduced last year to improve reporting of hate incidents and to stop the intolerance, anti-Asian bias, xenophobia, and harassment of Asian and Pacific Island Americans. This tragedy further underscores the urgency of reinstating the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the need for common sense gun legislation in our country.

We believe every woman deserves to feel safe and secure and be treated with respect and dignity by all. If any woman is unsafe, no woman is safe in America.

We are US women and US organizations organizing to promote and collaborate on the UN women's agenda and advocate for gender equality with women of every class, race, culture, creed, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

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