

Dear Marshall Community,

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities are experiencing a rise in racism, xenophobia, and acts of violence in the U.S. and across the globe. In the twenty weeks between March 19 and August 5 of last year, [over 2500 anti-Asian hate related incidents were reported](#), with 46% of these reports coming from California. These incidents are part of a longer history of anti-Asian violence and discrimination tracing back to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. From [verbal assaults](#) and the more insidious “shunning” to [violent hate crimes](#) in businesses, on streets, and in public parks—with women targeted more than men—this alarming rise of anti-Asian racism is deeply concerning and affects many of our students, staff, and faculty in the Marshall and UC San Diego communities.

In the words of Dr. Amanda Solomon Amorao, Director of Marshall’s Dimensions of Culture Writing Program:

We may never know the specific motivations of this shooter, but our work at DOC [Dimensions of Culture Writing Program] enables us to name the systems of racialized heteropatriarchal capitalism that enabled his violence. We can point to the multiple historical precursors that have dehumanized Asian immigrants in the U.S. We can name the Page Act of 1875 that banned Chinese women from entering the U.S. This prohibition of Chinese women -- racialized as threats to public morals and public health -- ensured a Chinese bachelor society that could serve as a disenfranchised and mobile labor force. We can also say the name of Vincent Chin, a young Chinese American man beaten to death in 1982 by two white men who racialized him as Japanese and blamed him for the collapse of the American auto industry. They attacked Vincent on the night of his bachelor party, served no jail time, and were fined just \$3,000. Because I know this history, I can read the profound significance of these attacks on Asian women at these Atlanta area spas. These attacks are not just about pandemic-spurred anti-Asian hate. These attacks are about the long history of violence against Asian immigrants who have been dehumanized as racial, sexual, and working-class threats.

Because I know this history, however, I can also name Yuri Kochiyama and Grace Lee Boggs -- two Asian American women who understood that the liberation of Asian immigrant communities is inextricably tied to the liberation of Black communities. Rather than strive for proximity to whiteness, Yuri and Grace forged militant cross-racial alliances around shared issues such as the treatment of political prisoners, fair housing guarantees, and reparations for state violence. I will tell their stories to my Asian American students who are struggling to make sense of Atlanta and how to call for justice for the victims in ways that do not pit Asian Americans against other BIPOC folks, which can consequently uphold the white supremacy that is harming all of us.

Thurgood Marshall College condemns the rise of anti-Asian racism occurring in the U.S. and around the world as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. We stand in solidarity with our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities and [commit to continued un/learning and action](#). If you witness anti-Asian racism, bigotry, or aggression, stand up for the targeted person/group and discourage others from engaging in this kind of behavior. If you have experienced racial bigotry or been targeted at the university, report the incident to both the [Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination \(OPHD\)](#) and [Stop AAPI Hate](#). If you need support, contact [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) and/or [Dr. Amber Vlasnik](#), Marshall’s Dean of Student Affairs.

In solidarity,

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