

March 18, 2021

**LETTER OF SUPPORT OF THE ASIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
FROM THE NATIONAL BLACK PRESBYTERIAN
CAUCUS**

The members of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus are horrified by the recent deadly shootings of six Asian-American women; as well as a white woman, a white man, and a Hispanic man who were wounded in Georgia. Although the Atlanta police authorities say it is too early in the investigation to know if the victims were targeted because of their race or ethnicity, we do know that there are 3,800 reported incidents of verbal and physical anti-Asian assaults recorded in the past year in the United States. We also know racist, anti-Asian coronavirus postings were on the Facebook of the man who did the shootings.

Authorities in South Korea said they are working to confirm the nationalities of the four women of Korean descent who were murdered. Seven of the eight people killed were women. A disproportionate number of these attacks in the United States (68%) are upon Asian-American women. We are appalled by this intersection of racism and sexism. Hateful assaults have now also become a common occurrence against the elderly within the Asian-American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. We believe we must protect our most vulnerable communities. This must stop.

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus strongly denounces (in the words of President Joe Biden) “vicious hate crimes against Asian-Americans who have been attacked, harassed, blamed and scapegoated” since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. These shootings are an unspeakable tragedy for the victims, their families, this nation, and the AAPI community which has been targeted by high levels of hateful racist and sexist attacks from insults to murder.

In the words of Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, “A crime against any community is a crime against us all.” Ben Crump, one of the nation’s

leading civil rights attorneys, stated, “Today’s tragic killing in Atlanta reaffirms the need for us to step up and protect ALL of America’s marginalized minorities from racism.” To these statements, the NBPC says a resounding, “Amen!”

In this same spirit-- the spirit of Christian love, the spirit of Jesus Christ-- the National Black Presbyterian Caucus stands in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the AAPI community. The caucus will pray and advocate for and with these families and community. We are in strong support of and in compassionate empathy with the suffering families and entire AAPI community in the wake of these unspeakable acts of violence as well as all of the abusive and racist rhetoric that has contributed to it since the pandemic.

The National Black Presbyterian Caucus advocates to ensure justice and inclusion in God’s call to all to the Beloved Community. May all Americans stand up (in the words of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken) “for the right of our fellow Americans, Korean-Americans, to be safe, to be treated with dignity.” There is the need for action and not just words. May God bless and protect the women, elders, and all of our sisters and brothers in the AAPI community.

Blessings in Christ,

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