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National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Church
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Dear Senator/Representative/Governor/Mayor,

Greetings to you from the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Church (NCKPC) of the Presbyterian Church (USA)!

With the recent spa shootings in Atlanta resulting in the murders of six Asian-American women and the brutal attack of a 65-year old Filipino woman in Manhattan, violence against the Asian-American/Pacific-Islander (AAPI) community has become more pronounced. While these crimes were more widely covered by national media, they are only the tip of the iceberg.

In 2020, there were 3800 reported incidents of hate against members of the AAPI community. Even though hate crimes had declined by 7% overall between 2019 and 2020, it actually increased 150% against AAPI people.¹ Making matters worse, most of the incidents targeted women.²

The NCKPC acknowledges the different histories and experiences of racism against Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in the United States. When the NCKPC protests racism against the AAPI, it does so with the understanding that it does not diminish any other BIPOC voice. Regardless of who is targeted, racism is deplorable.

As a Christian organization, the NCKPC promotes the peace and unity of all people regardless of race, creed, or color. It expressly rejects the attempts to pit any POC against another, such as Blacks against Korean-Americans, in an attempt to diminish the call to end racism in the United States. The NCKPC denounces all forms and expressions of racism.

According to the Census Bureau, the AAPI population is 23 million and is the fastest growing group in the United States. The NCKPC is proud to be included among this group of Americans. On behalf of the Korean-American members of 350 congregations spread throughout this great nation, we call on our governmental leaders to do the following:

1. Pass legislation that expands the definition of a hate crime and increases the punishment of individuals convicted of committing them.
2. Implement strategies that will deter violence and increase security in neighborhoods with a higher AAPI demographic.

We ask you to SEE us and HEAR us. The NCKPC continues to pray for your good work and leadership.

Sincerely,

NCKPC Executive Board

¹ <https://www.tampabay.com/news/nation-world/2021/03/20/hate-crimes-against-asian-americans-what-the-numbers-show-politifact/>

² <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2021/03/22/politifact-spike-hate-crimes-incidents-targeting-asian-americans/4782199001/>