

SFSS in Solidarity Against anti-Asian Racism

The March 16, 2021 Atlanta Spa Shooting comes amidst a disturbing global wide rise in violence and discrimination directed against the Asian population, with six of the eight victims killed being Asian women. The SFSS condemns anti-Asian racism in all forms, and stands in solidarity and compassion with the diverse Asian community. We hope to provide some resources for support options, as well as information for our members.

While we and others use the term "Asian" broadly, we acknowledge that here the term Asian is referring to people of Central, East, and South East Asian descent.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant and difficult impact on Asian communities, across the world. In Canada, Asian communities have experienced an increase in hate crimes and racist incidents during the pandemic, especially against seniors, with more than 800 incidents [recorded by Fight COVID Racism](#). There has been a 717% increase in [reported](#) anti-Asian hate crimes over the past year in Vancouver, with the actual number of unreported hate crimes likely to be higher.

This week's mass-shooting attack is a direct result of the build up in anti-Asian racism and increase in hate crimes since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. When discussing this horrific incident, we also acknowledge the [intersectionalities](#) of race, class, and working status that put these victims in an extremely [vulnerable position](#) in society. From the increasingly prevalent stereotyping to systemic discrimination, we must interrupt racism and other forms of connected oppression as soon as we recognize it.

It is important that various communities act in solidarity with one another against white supremacy, as many of us each engage in anti-oppressive efforts in some form. Our struggles are connected, and we will only be liberated from colonialism, classism, misogyny, and all other forms of oppression if we work together in our different capacities.

The only way forward is to take care of ourselves as we fight the white supremacy that enables this type of horror to escalate to such a level. Hearing of mass shootings targeted towards your own community can feel unsafe, infuriating, and heart-shattering. See the section below for some internal SFSS and SFU services, as well as external mental health resources available to you. Informational resources are available for activists and allies too.

Resources

SFSS & SFU Support Options

- **Confidential My SSP app** (24/7 chat or call). You can request culturally relevant services and in multiple languages.
<https://www.sfu.ca/students/health/resources/my-ssp.html>
- **SFSS Student Care plan**
Up to 80%, to a maximum of \$500 for all SFU undergraduates to spend on registered health practitioners - including therapists - through your SFSS Student Care plan. See more details on your health and dental benefits here:
https://studentcare.ca/rte/en/SimonFraserUniversityundergraduatestudentsSFSS_Health_HealthCoverage&random=185
- **List of SFSS Student Unions (Faculty & Departmental)**
If you need academic support or accommodations, you can reach out to your professors. Connect with your local student union if you need extra advocacy support within your department or faculty. Find list of registered unions here:
<https://go.sfss.ca/unions/list>
- **SFU Office of Student Support, Rights & Responsibilities**
Students can find out about their responsibilities and rights as members of the SFU community, and learn about the supports available to them.
<https://www.sfu.ca/students/studentssupport.html#students>
- **SFU Resources and Calls to Action Against Anti-Asian Racism**
See information on more SFU student supports, historical context of anti-Asian history in Canada, and organizations to support.
<https://www.sfu.ca/edi/updates/news/2021/resources-calls-to-actions-against-anti-asian-racism.html>
- **Healing in Colour (BIPOC Therapist Directory)**
Find Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Colour therapists in this directory, as well as other information. More info: <https://www.healingincolour.com/>

Take Action: Donate and Support

- **Yarrow Intergenerational Society for Justice**
Donations go towards grocery subsidies and grocery delivery for low-income seniors, language access, disability assistance, and intergenerational community events.
<https://www.yarrowsociety.ca/>

- **Chinatown Cares Grocery Delivery Program for Elders**
<https://huafoundation.org/work/food-systems/chinatown-cares/>
- **Save Chinese and Filipino businesses in Vancouver From Gentrification**
<https://linktr.ee/slicedmango>
- **SWAN Vancouver**
Culturally-Specialized Supports & Advocacy for Im/Migrant Women Engaged in Indoor Sex Work
<https://www.swanvancouver.ca/>
- **Asian Canadian Labour Alliance**
<http://aclaontario.ca/>
- **Red Canary Song**
Grassroots Collective of Asian & Migrant Sex Workers, organizing transnationally
<https://www.redcanarysong.net/>
- **Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta**
<https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org/news/communityresponse>

Informational Resources

- **Therapists' Self-Care Tips For Asian Americans Dealing With Racism Amid Coronavirus**
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/self-care-advice-asian-americans_1_5e83a656c5b6a1bb764f0e45
- **Employers Protecting Asian American and Pacific Islander Working People**
https://www.apalanet.org/uploads/8/3/2/0/83203568/aapi_covid-19_guidance.pdf
- **The Asian American Reply to Pandemic-Era Racism Must Be Cross-Racial Solidarity**
<https://truthout.org/articles/the-asian-american-reply-to-pandemic-era-racism-must-be-cross-racial-solidarity/>
- **Ways to Be an Ally, from Two Lifetimes of Learning**
<https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2020/06/09/Ways-To-Be-An-Ally/>