

March 17, 2021

Chairman Steve Cohen
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Mike Johnson
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

To Chairman Cohen, Ranking Member Johnson, and Members of the Subcommittee:

We, the undersigned 131 organizations, submit this testimony regarding violence and discrimination against Asian Americans less than 24 hours after a series of deadly shootings in Atlanta businesses killed six Asian American women.

While the details of Tuesday's shootings are still emerging, we know that it is not an isolated act. Anti-Asian violence and racism is woven throughout our nation's history. From the ugly history of the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Asiatic Barred Zone to the Chinese massacre of 1871 to the mob riots in the Pacific Northwest to Executive Order 9066 which interned American citizens of Japanese descent to the Oak Creek shooting of a Sikh temple to the Muslim travel ban, our Asian American friends and neighbors have been subject to too much hate, racism and violence.

Most recently the Trump' administration's relentless scapegoating of Asians for the COVID-19 pandemic has increased the reports of hate and violence against Asian Americans. According to Stop AAPI Hate, over 3,800 reports of violence were reported from March 2020 to February 2021. Last spring a father and his two young children were stabbed at a Sam's Club parking lot in Texas by an individual who thought that the Asian family had brought COVID-19 to the U.S. At the beginning of this year, we saw violent attacks on vulnerable Asian elders, including Vicha Ratanapakdee in San Francisco, Juanito Falcon in Phoenix, and Pak Ho in Oakland, who have died as a result of their injuries.

Stop AAPI Hate also finds that Asian American women and girls are three times more likely than men to report violence or harassment. New polling commissioned by the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) has revealed that nearly half of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women have been affected by anti-Asian racism in the past two years. Sexual violence, sexism, and racism are closely intertwined for AAPI women for many reasons, chief among them the false characterization that AAPI women are "docile" and "submissive." AAPI women and girls face a daily barrage of sexualized harassment and violence.

Racism and xenophobia in any form devalues the lives and experiences of immigrant communities, Black communities, and other communities of color while heightening divisions among us. Instead, we could be building bridges of understanding and support. We stand

shoulder to shoulder with our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities to build a better nation for all.

We join the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in calling for investment in communities of color so that all of us have the infrastructure and resources in place for effective community safety, a robust social service safety net, and in-language support. We call on our local and state government to provide robust and responsive crisis intervention resources, including in-language support for mental health, legal, employment, and immigration services. We call for an investment in transformative justice that begins with cross racial dialogue and community-building that address the root causes of violence and hate. We join leading Asian American community groups in not asking for more law enforcement. We've seen time and time again, more law enforcement has not led to protection and safety. It instead leads to more violence aimed at and control of Black and Brown communities. We call on Congress to center the voices and leadership of Asian American women, girls and transgender and gender non-conforming communities.

Sincerely,

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)

Abortion Access Front

AccessMatters

Advocates for Youth

American Association of University Women (AAUW).

American Friends Service Committee

American Medical Student Association

American Sustainable Business Council

AnitaB.org

Apex for Youth

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian American / Asian Research Institute - City University of New York

Asian Americans in Action

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

California Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander American Affairs
Catalyst
Catholics for Choice
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Reproductive Rights
CHANGE (Center for Health and Gender Equity)
Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)
Civil Liberties and Public Policy
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity & Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Community Change Action
Community Youth Center of San Francisco
Daya Inc
Equal Rights Advocates
Faith in Public Life
Feminist Majority
Franciscan Action Network
Gender Justice
Girls Inc.
Hispanic Federation
Holler Health Justice
Ibis Reproductive Health
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Illinois National Organization for Women
Immigrant Social Services, Inc.
Immigrants Rising, a project of Community Initiatives

In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda

International Refugee Assistance Project

Ipas

Japanese American Citizens League

Korean American Center (a division of Korean Community Services)

Legal Aid at Work

Legal Voice

Lilith Fund

Main Street Alliance

Medical Students for Choice

MomsRising / MamasConPoder

Muslim Advocates

NaFFAA Region 5 APIA Vote Colorado

NARAL Pro-Choice America

NARAL Pro-Choice Connecticut

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts

NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri

NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina

NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington

NARAL Pro-Choice Wyoming

National Alliance to End Sexual Violence

National Association of Social Workers

National CAPACD

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)

National Council of Jewish Women

National Domestic Worker's Alliance

National Education Association

National Employment Law Project
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)
National Health Law Program
National Immigration Law Center
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for New Americans
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates
Ohio Women's Public Policy Network
OneAmerica
Pegasus Health Justice Center, PLLC
People's Parity Project
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Institute
Power to Decide
Progress Virginia
RAICES
Reproaction
Reproductive Health Access Project
Sakhi for South Asian Women

Sapna NYC

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

SisterSong National Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI)

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)

South Asian Public Health Association

Southwest Women's Law Center

SPLC Action Fund

Supermajority

Tammy Kim, Vice Mayor, City of Irvine

The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW)

The Korean American Family Service Center

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

The Womxn Project

True North Research

Truman National Security Project

Tsuru for Solidarity

UltraViolet

UNITED SIKHS

United State of Women

URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

Virginia Civic Engagement Table

Whole Woman's Health

Whole Woman's Health Alliance

Win Without War

Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest PA

Women Employed

Women's Law Project

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

YWCA Great Falls

YWCA USA