

Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Condemns Anti-Asian Hate Crimes and Violence

April 6, 2021

The members of the Maryland Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights unequivocally condemn all forms of anti-Asian hate speech, violence and crimes that have meteorically risen nationwide in the past few years.

The killing of six American women of Asian descent in Atlanta and the heinous killing of Asians in California have shocked the nation and spawned nationwide protests.¹ Most recently the brutal stomping in broad daylight of a 65-yr old Filipina on her way to church has only reinforced the fear among many that there is an open season on hunting Americans of Asian descent.² Many have taken the message that Americans of Asian descent are on their own, that the community will not stand with them, despite the rush to issue corporate, government platitudes of solidarity.

From March 19, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2021, there were [more than 3,795 hate incidents](#), including verbal harassment and physical assault, against Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the United States, reported to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), a nonprofit organization that tracks such incidents.³

A recent report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, found that anti-Asian hate crimes [increased 150 percent in 2020](#) in America's 16 largest cities, despite overall hate crimes dropping 7 percent in those cities.²

The Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus, which is comprised of 11 elected officials, issued this statement following the slaughter in Atlanta: "Anti-Asian violence is not new. This latest example of violence against our community has exacerbated the pain, anger and fear we all experience in our daily lives."

Sen. Clarence K. Lam (D-Howard) noted that Howard County has the highest proportion of Asian Americans as a percentage of its population in the state. Nearly 60,000 Asian Americans live in the county with over 160 businesses along US 40 alone.³

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/03/20/atlanta-shooting-updates/>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/30/nyregion/asian-attack-nyc.html>

³ <https://www.yahoo.com/gma/washington-teenager-arrested-attack-asian-192112313.html>

² <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/marylands-korean-american-first-lady-203950664.html>

³ <https://wtop.com/maryland/2021/03/hogan-announces-new-steps-to-protect-marylands-asian-community/>

⁴ <https://www.marylandmatters.org/2021/03/20/in-wake-of-atlanta-killings-md-leaders-implore-asian-communities-to-speak-out/>

During Lunar New Year celebrations last month, four Asian-owned businesses in Howard County were vandalized.

Governor Larry Hogan's wife, Yumi, is of Korean descent. In his "State of the Union" address, Hogan said his wife and three daughters and granddaughters "have felt some discrimination personally."⁴

As a civil rights advisory committee, we acknowledge that the State is beginning to enact legislation and policies to protect Maryland's Asian community from further violence, threats and harassment. We urge all Marylanders to commit to correcting the systemic gaps and obstacles to enable better reporting of anti-Asian hate crimes, drive greater awareness through education to stop prejudice and discrimination against Asians, and require appropriate and consistent law enforcement to attain justice for victims of anti-Asian hate.

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