



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Contact:

## **North Dakota Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights Condemns Violence Against Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander Descent**

The members of the North Dakota 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 escalation of hate crimes against Asian Americans is not new. There is a long history of violence, discrimination and xenophobia against the Asian American Pacific Islander community. A recent report 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.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, 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 reported to [Stop AAPI Hate](#), a nonprofit organization that tracks such incidents.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> Most recently the brutal stomping in broad daylight of a 65-yr old Filipina on her way to church and inhumane indifference shown by three men who watched the attack unfold, one of whom was a building security guard who closed the front door while the woman struggled to get up, has only reinforced the fear among Americans of Asian descent.<sup>3</sup>

In the past, the North Dakota Advisory Committee has examined hate crimes in North Dakota. The Committee released an [Advisory Memorandum](#) and noted that "North Dakota has been notorious for high occurrences of hate crimes." To address the issue, the Committee noted the need for public education on hate crimes, mandatory reporting and data collection on hate crimes, and mandatory bias motivated crime training for law enforcement officers that trains first responders to identify and work victims.

"In light of the recent escalation of hate crimes against Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent the Advisory Committee renews its call that the state do its part to combat racism and oppression within the state and in our communities," said Michelle Rydz, chair of the North Dakota Advisory Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.yahoo.com/gma/washington-teenager-arrested-attack-asian-192112313.html>

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

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

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

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/03/20/atlanta-shooting-updates/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/30/nyregion/asian-attack-nyc.html>

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*The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is the only independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights and reporting annually on federal civil rights enforcement. Our 51 state Advisory Committees offer a broad perspective on civil rights concerns at state and local levels. The Commission: in our 7<sup>th</sup> decade, a continuing legacy of influence in civil rights. For more information about the Commission and our Committees, please visit \*[www.usccr.gov](http://www.usccr.gov) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).*