

March 25, 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 247 organizations, submit this testimony regarding violence and discrimination against Asian Americans 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)

20 Women for Darfur

A Better Balance

Abortion Access Front

AccessMatters

Act To Change

Advocates for Youth

Advocating Opportunity

AHRI for Justice

All* Above All Action Fund

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Friends Service Committee

American Medical Student Association

American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)

American Sustainable Business Council

AnitaB.org

APAPA San Diego Chapter

Apex for Youth

Arizona YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix

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

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)

Asian American Resource Workshop

Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders for Justice, San Antonio, TX

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles

Asian Americans in Action

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Atlanta Women for Equality

AYPAL: Building API Community Power

Bend the Arc: Jewish Action

Black Mamas Matter Alliance

Black Womens Health Imperative

California Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander American Affairs

CAP Union

Catalyst

Catholics for Choice

Center for Disability Rights

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism - California State University, San Bernardino

CHANGE (Center for Health and Gender Equity)

Chinese-American Planning Council (CPC)

Civil Liberties and Public Policy
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Closing the Womens Wealth Gap
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)
Coalition of Labor Union Women
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity & Reproductive Rights (COLOR)
Community Catalyst
Community Change Action
Community Health Councils
Community Youth Center of San Francisco
Council Of Peoples Organization
Daya Inc
DNC Environment and Climate Crisis Council
Drea Castro
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
End Rape On Campus
Equal Rights Advocates
Equality California
ERA Coalition
EverThrive Illinois
Faith in Public Life
Feminist Majority Foundation
Feminist Women's Health Center
FilExcellence Club
Franciscan Action Network
Futures Without Violence
Gender Equality Law Center, Inc.
Gender Justice

Girls for Gender Equity

Girls Inc.

Girls Who Code

HAITIAN BRIDGE ALLIANCE

HE AND ASSOCIATES, LLC

Hispanic Federation

Hollaback!

Holler Health Justice

Hope Clinic for Women

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas

Ibis Reproductive Health

If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

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

Institute for Women's Policy Research

Interfaith Alliance

Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice (IVRJ)

International Refugee Assistance Project

Ipas

Iu Mien Association of Oregon

Japanese American Citizens League

Justice for Migrant Women

Korean American Center (a division of Korean Community Services)

Laal NYC

Laos Angeles

Laotian American National Alliance
Laotian American National Alliance (LANA)
Laotian-American Community of Fresno
Lawyers for Good Government (LAGG)
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics)
Legal Aid at Work
Legal Voice
Lilith Fund
Main Street Alliance
me too. International
Media Design Imaging
Medical Students for Choice
Men4Choice Advocacy
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Midwest Access Project
MomsRising / MamasConPoder
Movement Advancement Project
Ms. magazine
Mujeres Latinas en Acción
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 ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Jewish Women Illinois
National Crittenton
National Domestic Worker's Alliance
National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Employment Lawyers Association
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 for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women
National Organization for Women, Chicago Chapter
National Partnership for New Americans

National Partnership for Women & Families
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Organization
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Political Caucus
New Voices for Reproductive Justice
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
NWGSD.org
OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates
OCA Asian Pacific Advocates - Greater Seattle
OCA Greater Chicago
OCA Las Vegas
OCA-GPC
Ohio Women's Public Policy Network
OneAmerica
OPAWL
PAI
Pegasus Health Justice Center, PLLC
People's Parity Project
Philadelphia Coalition of Labor Union Women Philly CLUW
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Planned Parenthood Illinois Action
Planned Parenthood Keystone
Population Institute
Power to Decide
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Progress Virginia

Prospera Community Development
RAICES
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Reproaction
Reproductive Health Access Project
Reproductive Health Access Project, Georgia Chapter
ReproJobs
Sakhi for South Asian Women
Sapna NYC
SEIU Illinois State Council
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Sierra Club
Sikh Coalition
Silver State Equality-Nevada
SisterSong National Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective
South Asian American Policy and Research Institute (SAAPRI)
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
South Asian Network
South Asian Public Health Association
Southwest Women's Law Center
SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW!, Inc.
SPLC Action Fund
Supermajority
Tammy Kim, Vice Mayor, City of Irvine
The Center for Asian Pacific American Women (CAPAW)
The Employee Rights Advocacy Institute For Law & Policy
The Korean American Family Service Center

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The New York Women's Foundation
The Womxn Project
The Workers Circle
TIME'S UP Now
True North Research
Truman National Security Project
Tsuru for Solidarity
UCR Healthy Campus Public Health Antiracism Subcommittee
UltraViolet
Union for Reform Judaism
UNITED SIKHS
United State of Women
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Verity
Vermont Legal Aid, Inc.
Virginia Civic Engagement Table
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Vote Run Lead
We Testify
Whole Woman's Health
Whole Woman's Health Alliance
Win Without War
Womankind
Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest PA
Women Employed
Women of Reform Judaism
Women with a Vision, Inc

Women's Law Project

Workplace Fairness

Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights

YWCA Great Falls

YWCA NH

YWCA of the University of Illinois

YWCA USA