

Sharing Our Sorrow

One year ago, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a surge of anti-Asian violence. Just this week, Stop AAPI Hate released a report documenting 3,795 anti-Asian racist incidents, 68% directed towards Asian women. And, on Tuesday, in Atlanta, yet another vicious act of violent hatred, xenophobia and misogyny resulted in mass deaths in the Asian community.

None of us can pretend to be surprised. Powerful political forces have manufactured division across our country, seeking to generate fear, trying to prevent us from standing up for one another and seeing our shared humanity. This is the same machinery that has resulted in increased antisemitism, and acts of violence against our Black and Brown neighbors, immigrants, and so many others. This, combined with much too easy access to guns in our country, resulted in yet another tragedy

JALSA stands in solidarity with our Asian-American family, friends, and neighbors, as we reaffirm our commitment to joining together with multi-faith and multi-racial partners in the work of ending hatred and discrimination in our time, no matter what form it takes.

Elie Wiesel said, "Always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." Today we take the side of those families mourning the loss of their loved ones, struggling in the aftermath of an irrational tragedy. We grieve for those we have all lost from our shared community, whose lives ended far too soon. We resolve to continue our work to build a country that is rooted in the promise of freedom and safety for all.