



NYCMER Responds to the Rise in Anti-Asian Violence
March 19, 2021

The New York City Museum Educators Roundtable mourns the deaths of those who were killed in the recent targeted shootings in Georgia. We recognize that this attack highlights the dangers of white supremacy and misogyny, as well as the intersection of anti-Asian violence, gender-based violence, and violence against sex workers, all of which are far too present in the U.S. We also grieve for the individuals and loved ones who have been harmed in the increased number of anti-Asian hate crime attacks happening from New York to California in recent months.

Violence and discrimination against individuals or communities based on race, ethnicity, or national origin is unacceptable. Despite this, more than 3,700 incidents of anti-Asian hate were reported to the AAPI Hate reporting center from March 19, 2020 to February 28, 2021 ([source](#)) and more than 30% of Asian adults have experienced derogatory comments based on their race or ethnicity since the COVID-19 pandemic began ([source](#)). Recognizing that reported incidents represent a fraction of those that occur, we have witnessed how anti-Asian rhetoric and policies continue to incite these violent attacks.

NYCMER condemns all harassment, harmful rhetoric, and violent acts against members of the AAPI community. We stand in solidarity with our AAPI colleagues in the museum field and beyond. We continue to commit, and re-commit, to our mission of addressing meaningful issues relevant to our work and to exchange and disseminate current information. Please see the selection of resources below and join us as we continue to learn and to reflect. We advocate for our members, our audiences, museum education, and equity in our field and beyond. NYCMER reiterates our belief that **we must care for our community by holding one another up.**

Challenging and addressing racism, bias, and discrimination involves long-term work. We are committed to advocating for diversity and equity in museums, informal education, and our broader communities. We thank our Peer Groups for continuing to engage members with issues of injustice and inherent bias, including at their recent program on “Successfully Engaging Marginalized Communities.” But we know that NYCMER has work to do, too. We invite your input, and you are welcome to email us at info@nycmer.org.

We stand with, support, and thank those working to bring an end to oppression and violence, especially during this time of continuing, overlapping crises.

In solidarity,
The New York City Museum Educators Roundtable Board of Trustees

Actionable Steps for Individuals

- Audit your work, your privilege, and your sphere of influence; consider where you can be most useful
- [Intervene](#) during acts of injustice against people of color, from microaggressions to violence
- Review, complete, and implement the [Asian American Racial Justice Toolkit](#)
- Understand [intersectionality](#) and apply that lens to your work
- Recognize the link between [ableism](#) and racism; work to create environments and practices that prioritize access for all
- Integrate anti-racist and culturally responsive pedagogy into your practice by reading texts from the reading list below

Actionable Steps for Institutions

- Assess and update how AAPI individuals and communities are represented in your museum's collections, exhibitions, and programs
- Pay equitable wages for translation and interpretation work of all kinds
- Partner with local racial and social justice groups in your community and pay them for their expertise
- Integrate anti-racist and culturally responsive pedagogy into your institutional structures
- Recognize the link between [ableism](#) and racism; create exhibits, programs and exhibits that prioritize access for all

Reading List

- [Stop AAPI Hate National Report 2020-2021](#)
- [Activating Diversity and Inclusion: A Blueprint for Museum Educators as Allies and Change Makers](#) by Wendy Ng, Syrus Marcus Ware, and Alyssa Greenberg
- [The Making of Asian America](#) by Erika Lee
- [Inside the Numbers: How Immigration Shapes Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities](#) report by Asian Americans Advancing Justice
- [Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White](#) by Frank Wu
- [Yellow Peril! An Archive of Anti-Asian Fear](#) by John Kuo Wei Tchen and Dylan Yeats
- [Dismantling Racism in Museum Education](#) by Marit Dewhurst and Keonna Hendrick
- [Pedagogy of the Oppressed](#) by Paulo Freire
- [Culturally Responsive Teaching](#) by Geneva Gay

Resources + Toolkits

- [Stop AAPI Hate](#)
- [AAPI Women Lead](#)
- [Social Justice & Museums Resource List](#) curated by organizer and art historian La Tanya Autry
- [Oakland Chinatown Safety Resource List](#) from the Oakland Asian Cultural Center
- [Chinese American: Inclusion/Exclusion](#) exhibition resources from N-YHS

- [“We are not a stereotype”](#) resources from Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center
- [2021 Asian/Pacific American Librarians Association](#) anti-xenophobia and anti-racist information resource toolkit
- [Museum of Chinese in America: REMEMBER. RECORD. RESPECT.](#)
- The Anti-Defamation League’s [Challenging Anti-Asian Bias and Acting as an Ally](#) with sections for Educators, Families, and Students.
- The American Library Association’s [resources on Hate Speech and Hate Crime](#).
- [Museums as Site for Social Action](#) Readiness Assessment