

A Statement of Solidarity from the Presbytery of Detroit

To all the congregations and members and communities within the Presbytery of Detroit I greet you with a saddened heart as we witness heightened violence against our siblings of Asian descent.

At such a time as this, as we attempt to navigate the enormity of Covid-19 some of us, indeed too many of us are experiencing first-hand- racist, oppressive systems, violence and even death.

As more violence and malicious attitudes permeate against Black, Indigenous, People of Color which includes -Asian/Asian American, Pacific Island communities-along with LGBTQIA+ communities, religious communities must come together and stand in solidarity with our siblings.

Asian Americans are increasingly concerned about violence and hate crimes, especially after Tuesday night shootings around the Atlanta metropolitan area. The shootings are among the most recent, most visible, and most deadly - but all part of the same white supremacy/racism trend. Furthermore, youths (0 to 17 years old) and seniors (60 years old and older) and women are the most vulnerable as it relates to verbal harassment and physical assault. According to the Pew Research Center survey, three in 10 Asian Americans (31%) report having experienced racial slurs or racist jokes since the beginning of the pandemic.

Stop AAPI Hate received reports of 3,292 incidents that occurred in 2020.

Stop AAPI Hate received reports of 503 incidents that occurred in 2021 thus far.

To this end the Presbytery of Detroit ***emphatically stands with our siblings and communities who are marginalized and dehumanized.***

Furthermore, during this critical moment in history, we denounce the sin of hatred and violence that has risen once again in acts of racism and violence against our Asian and Asian American siblings.

In the words of "Sweet Honey in the Rock," we who believe in freedom cannot rest until it's won.

So let us march on, even as the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminds us. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Stop AAPI Hate is a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian-discrimination amid the pandemic, was founded by the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), and San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department.