

TODOS' Response to the Violence Against Asian Americans

Once again, racism has raised its ugly head. This time the attacks are on innocent Asian Americans because of untruths and blame for COVID-19. These attacks must stop! We stand with our Asian American friends and colleagues as they navigate safety in their physical, virtual, and professional lives. Because these experiences can bring up deep emotions, we encourage you to take care of yourself and your mental health.

It is our charge to support our Asian American friends and colleagues by speaking out against racism in all its forms. We encourage you to speak out against violence, especially when it is difficult or may cause a backlash. To quote Katherine Cho, "We cannot take social justice for granted: we cannot mitigate, dilute, or wave-away harmful actions."

If you are an educator in mathematics or any other subject, we implore you not to ignore these realities as you teach your students and interact with the world. Now is the time to protect Asian American children and ALL children from in-person bullying and cyberbullying, name-calling, and physical violence. Now is the time to use our voices to speak out against any form of hate. The emotional well-being of our students is first and foremost.

What can you do to take action now?

- Now is the time to check in with Asian American friends, colleagues, students, and families to assure them that we have their backs and that their children are safe at school and in our classrooms.
- Now is the time to educate ourselves in preparation to have conversations or to hold space for others as they process pain and grief.
- Now is the time to advocate for policy changes in your organizations that prioritize erasing myths about "the model minority," especially in the field of mathematics.

If not us, then who? If not now, then when?

TODOS: Mathematics for ALL

Resources

AAPI Resources for Mental Health: (2021). Google Docs.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14MYxPo4aaq0wF78MzItEKsie7TEydnXb_arW7NIQtqw/edit

Cho, K. S. (2021, March 17). *Statement on Atlanta*. DR. KATHERINE S. CHO.

<https://www.katscho.com/blog/statement-on-atlanta>

Yeh, C. (2021). Promoting a Community-Centered Response to Anti-Asian Violence. Google Docs.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11O2XztPij5cEOkUxvuJlfui3CqEKtM-kLzVSC8QnS0c/edit>