



Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS) is devastated by the recent attack that killed eight in Atlanta, Georgia – six of whom were Asian-American women. We share the grief and sorrow of the loved ones of **Xiaojie Tan, Delaina Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Daoyou Feng, Yong Ae Yue, Hyun Jung Grant, Soon Chung Park, and Suncha Kim** and hold each and every one of these victims and their families deep within our hearts and thoughts. We stand with Asian communities around the world who have been hurt, again, by this tragedy, in the wake of a steep rise in explicit violence against Asians.

Each of the victims worked in industries within which vulnerabilities and oppressions are created, exacerbated, ignored and exploited. Precarious workers such as Tan, Yaun, Michels, Feng, Yue, Grant, Park and Kim, face challenges that are deeply rooted in and aggravated by misogyny, sexism, whorephobia, racism, classism, and all forms of discrimination and systemic oppression. ACAS unequivocally supports and champions the identities, labour, ways of loving and livelihoods that are represented by massage workers, sex workers, migrant workers, and so many like them. It is distressing beyond words that the eight killed on March 16 were simply *living, providing*; they were targeted, assaulted, and murdered, like so many alike them each and every single day – in the United States, Canada, and everywhere one may set down one’s roots, make a living, discover oneself, simply *be*.

As we mourn, we continue to protect and fight for the dignity, the rights, the very lives, of our neighbours, friends, families, communities, of whom countless are irrevocably connected in one way or another to the experiences that Tan, Yaun, Michels, Feng, Yue, Grant, Park and Kim had on all of their respective journeys. These experiences include unsafe working conditions, insecurity and the daily need to survive in an inherent state of threat as a result of vulnerability that stems from one or multiple aspects of gender, sexual, racial, linguistic, migrant, and many more marginalized identities.

Once again, the murders on March 16 are yet another reminder of the constant sorrow Asian communities are facing as a result of the escalation of violent acts that leave Asians dead in their wake. No cause could ever justify such acts. The struggle of these communities is our collective struggle. ACAS calls with acute urgency for solidarity, unity, and unencumbered advocacy in support of all those affected by these acts. We call for a stop to the senseless violence against Asians, against elderly Asians, against Asian labourers, against Asian sex workers. In this spirit, we encourage each and every reader of this piece to sign on to the following community statement:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaF9sNT8o13HB9AtmKZMzaSfl3MWabasMcE3VgJy8-HhJnyw/viewform>

In rage, heartbreak, and solidarity, and with utmost respect,

The Board of Directors of Asian AIDS Community Service

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsey Li", written in a cursive style.

Lindsey Li, Board Chair