



Association of Asian American Social Workers

April 12, 2021

To the GCSW community,

As we continue to reflect on the continued acts of violence against our Asian American community, the Association of Asian American Social Workers (AAASW) are exhausted, sad, and angry over the suffering and violence faced by Asian communities in America. We are reminded yet again of the consequences of America's long history of anti-Asian violence and racism. During this pandemic, it is even more evident that racism and xenophobia still exists as we have witnessed acts of oppression, discrimination, violence, and racism. We are calling for a unified approach to support all marginalized communities at the GCSW.

After one of our events, a student asked us, "Are Asian people minorities?" This question highlights the erasure of Asian communities. It also leads us to contemplate on the role of GCSW in perpetuating the erasure of Asian/Asian-American oppression and other forms of oppression that impact our communities. We advocate for change from the margins when we, along with other communities, are already marginalized. Ultimately, we believe that there is room for growth to bridge the GCSW's mission with our experiences. We ask the GCSW community to help us address all of the racial injustice that we are witnessing today.

In accordance with the NASW Code of Ethics, we strive to challenge social injustice rooted in systemic racism. AAASW is committed to dismantling White supremacy, racism, pervasive systems, policies, and narratives that demean Asian lives, Black lives, Indigenous lives, and Latinx lives. In recognition of how racism affects all minorities and causes interlocking oppressions, we urge the GCSW to engage in the following action steps:

- 1.) Train professors to hold space for discussion about events like these hate crimes. They are critical in our learning experiences as emerging social workers.
- 2.) Embed cultural specific knowledge in all curriculum starting in the first semester for all levels of education. For example, we would love to learn more about the application Cognitive Behavioral Therapy among Asian communities.
- 3.) Increase readings, discussions, and assignments that promote lifelong learning about different cultures. This is in alignment with NASW Code of Ethics 1.05.
- 4.) GCSW faculty and staff to facilitate space for Asian students to process and discuss these hate crimes.



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- 5.) Invite Asian activists as speakers for GCSW sponsored events.
- 6.) Fund programming to uplift Black, Indigenous, and People of Color organizations and events.
- 7.) Collaborate with Asian American Studies Center in College of Education.
- 8.) Build partnerships with community organizations to promote community-driven research.
- 9.) Support the [Asian Mental Health Collective](#), a community for Asian mental health support.
- 10.) Support [Stop AAPI Hate](#) by reporting hate crimes and anti-Asian hate incidents.
- 11.) Read the APISWEA joint statement called "Social Work's Call to Action Against Pandemic Othering and Anti-Asian Racism" [here](#).

We hope you all are safe and well, especially during this pandemic. We welcome any questions or comments. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
The Association of Asian American Social Workers
Graduate College of Social Work
University of Houston