

## **Atlanta-area shootings 8 dead, including 6 Asian women**

March 19, 2021

It is with heartbreaking concern this morning that FSOMA is sharing news of the shooting deaths last Tuesday of 8 people including 6 Asian women working at three massage therapy locations in Atlanta, GA. Regrettably, this news does not come as a shock because “a shock” would indicate some element of surprise. Unfortunately, this despicable act is not a surprise given the rise in violence and documented incidents (3,795) directed at the Asian Americans since March 2020. [Stop AAPI-Hate Report](#)

At this time, FSOMA extends its condolences and prayers to the Asian American and Pacific Island (AAPI) community with special reverence for the friends, family, and victims of this heinous attack. We urge those in the community and colleagues who experience heightened emotional strain, fear or anxiety to access grief and mental health resources available across the State (see below). Should resources be unavailable in your community, please contact a trusted friend, colleague or FSOMA for support in finding affordable professional support. [Open Counseling - Florida Mental Health Resources](#)

Please lend your voice in support of expanding protections for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders under tougher Federal Hate-Crime Legislation being discussed in the US Congress. The Judiciary Committee met yesterday to hear testimony. Contact your Congressional Senate and House of Representatives members to tell them that greater protections are required and those responsible for hate-crimes need to be held fully accountable. [Find My Congressional Senator & Reps](#)

To report a hate-crime, racially motivated incident or attack directed at an Asian American, please visit [Stop AAPI Hate.com](#). Documenting each instance is foundational to ending discrimination and violence.

Proper planning and heightened awareness in the workplace are critical when preparing a safety plan or responding to violence. Please review your emergency and active shooter plans to consider how best you and your employees might respond to a crisis situation. An effective strategy to address unpredictable concerns is to expect the best, but plan for the worst. Painful as this can be, discussing and having a response plan in place is itself, a powerful affirmation against aggression.

In keeping with FSOMA’s mission to improve the health and wellbeing of Floridians, its Board and Membership are opposed to violence and promote the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. FSOMA is against violence for any reason; and believes, violence is born of fear, ignorance or misunderstanding. This includes the recent violence against Asian Americans, the ongoing violence of racism against African Americans, the culture of violence against women and domestic violence against wives, children, and husbands.

In life, disagreements are inherent but how we respond can either promote understanding and reduce conflict or increase it. Treating all people with respect and worthy of being heard is vital to this purpose. The FSOMA Board, on behalf of the membership, wishes to clearly assert it supports protecting human dignity, equality and every person’s inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness.

The University of Washington provides a comprehensive Anti-racism resource page with links to articles, organizations, podcast and more. [washington.edu/raceequity/resources/anti-racism-resources/](http://washington.edu/raceequity/resources/anti-racism-resources/)