Dear Friends,

This week’s tragedy is another part of a seemingly unending onslaught of racial violence towards Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in this country. We write this within the context of the ongoing pandemic, racism, xenophobia, and tragedies that started so long ago and have been amplified over the past year – tragedies that finally received overdue worldwide attention by George Floyd’s murder and most recently Tuesday’s mass shooting in Atlanta of 8 people, 6 of whom were Asian American women by another white man. We write with an acknowledgment of the deeply disturbing nature of these murders for members of our CHAC community and larger Santa Clara County community. As a learning community at an institution serving the public to support mental health and wellness, we embrace the responsibility to increase our awareness of the systemic and structural racism in our country and institutions and to take appropriate action.

In other words, we cannot and will not sit in silence.

Racial trauma has been mounting to significant levels, impacting colleagues, friends, and family members in substantial, yet sometimes imperceptible ways. This is an opportunity to be mindful of each other and extend kindness and a willing ear when needed. Patience, spaciousness and curiosity are often needed to meet feelings of rage, hurt and historical trauma, so please offer support and comfort to those who may not have support or resources to process recent events. Being there with an open, listening heart can go a long way.

We have enclosed a number of resources to enhance awareness, increase knowledge, and assist in integrating strategies so as to make the necessary space to address issues of racism. The resources are intended to contribute to collective knowledge in the hopes of empowering everyone to advance social justice, as we combat and condemn racist actions that oppress our clients, families, colleagues and friends.

We call on all of you as community members and colleagues to take an affirming and openly public stand against anti-Asian hate and violence in solidarity with anti-racism work to stop the ongoing hate and violence against the Black, Indigenous, Latinx, immigrant, and sexual/gender minority communities. We all have so much work to do to build awareness, educate ourselves, our colleagues, youth, families, and communities about the systemic and structural racist history of this country and where we can make positive impacts, both as individuals as an institution.

Yesterday, 3/18/21, there was a US Congressional Hearing on discrimination and violence against Asian Americans. People can also read and distribute the Stop AAPI Hate National Report which was released on 3/16/21.

CHAC joins with a multitude of agencies, schools, universities and national organizations with this statement and links resources to help communities prepare for anti-Asian rhetoric and racism, making this visible and actionable. We encourage you to invite family, friends, students, and community members into conversations and to report anti-Asian hate here.

Reporting incidents will make visible what is far too often made invisible.

In heartfelt solidarity,

Marsha Deslauriers
Executive Director

With the support and guidance of CHAC’s additional DEI Committee Members:
Nicole Jeans, Maddi Pascua, Ron Pilato, Massimo Prati, Elisabet Revilla, Camila Rodriguez