Statement on Victims of Atlanta Shooting and Anti-Asian Racism

The Korean Canadian Scholarship Foundation (KCSF) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of the victims of the mass shooting in Atlanta, Georgia on March 16, 2021. We are horrified by the killing of eight victims, including six women of Asian heritage, four of whom were of Korean descent. In the wake of an overwhelming rise in anti-Asian violence in the US, Europe, and here in Canada since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, this tragedy deepens our community’s woe and frustration. KCSF stands in solidarity with our Asian American and Asian Canadian brothers and sisters to speak out against anti-Asian hate, demanding systemic and cultural changes to better protect Asian lives.

The Atlanta shooting is a hate-crime and is not an isolated incident. We are alarmed by the increasing rate of anti-Asian racism impacting our youth and communities. According to a recent report prepared by Chinese Canadian National Council - Toronto, in less than one year since March 10, 2020, over 1,100 reports of anti-Asian racist attacks were reported in Canada. Approximately 11% of these attacks were reported to contain physical assault or unwanted physical contact. Nearly 60% of all reported cases were reported by women. Stop AAPI Hate, a coalition of 40 US advocacy organizations centralizing reports of anti-Asian microaggressions and violence, has recorded 3,795 incidents of discrimination between March 2020 and February 2021. Women reported 2.5 times more often than men. In Vancouver, reports of anti-Asian racism rose by sevenfold in a year by August 2020.

The rapid rise of such incidents are painful reminders of anti-Asian racism's deep roots in North American history. In both Canada and the US, systemic racism against Asians has manifested in several layers of society from immigration, employment, and education to housing policies and practices since the nineteenth century. The ongoing perpetuation of the hyper-sexualization of Asian women, the Yellow Peril stereotype, the Perpetual Foreigner stereotype and the Model Minority Myth serve to normalize racial violence and expose the pervasiveness and history of anti-Asian racism deep within the structures of North America.

Anti-Asian racism disproportionately affects those of lower socio-economic status. Research in the U.S. shows that income inequality is greatest among Asian Americans of any racial and ethnic group, with those in the top 10% earning more than 10.7 times as much as those in the bottom 10%. Reports of racism indicate that victims are often Asians in lower socio-economic status.

As a charitable organization dedicated to nurturing the leadership and education of young Korean Canadians, KCSF unites with the coalition of voices speaking up for all Asian lives in North America and beyond. KCSF will continue to expand its reach and support to all Korean Canadians. We will strive to support the learning and action that confronts anti-Asian hate and calls on our Korean Canadian community to do the same for the safety of your youth and families.
This work demands our urgent attention today. We invite our stakeholders to join us in this fight by reporting any anti-Asian racism they witness or experience through the Project 1907 website and donating to:

Butterfly: Asian and Migrant Sex Worker Support Network
Project 1907
Fight COVID Racism
Stop Asian Hate Bleeding Tiger Tee

Philip Cho, Chair of the Board of Directors
Korean Canadian Scholarship Foundation (KCSF)

We thank the York Centre for Asian Research for sharing additional anti-Asian resources:

Responding to Hate Toolkit | Ryerson University
Addressing Anti-Asian Racism: A Resource for Educators | Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario
Anti-Asian Violence resources

Further information on the subject, specifically the impact felt here in Canada and by Asian Canadians:

Declaration of Support: Justice for Migrant Sex Workers
Statement of Solidarity with frontline workers | Chinese Canadian National Council – Toronto Chapter
Joint statement condemning the attacks in Atlanta | Chinese Canadian National Council for Social Justice and Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic