



YFS STATEMENT ON ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE

CW: ANTI-ASIAN RACISM, VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS, WHITE SUPREMACY

On Tuesday, March 16th, 2021, a gunman killed eight people, six of whom were Asian women, during a killing spree that took place across three different Asian spas in Atlanta, Georgia. Despite the claim by the shooter, police, and media that this hate crime was not racially motivated, it is an undeniable fact that Asian women were targeted and killed.

As much as society would like to believe that this is a non-racially motivated, isolated incident, it is a fact that anti-Asian racism has existed from the inception of our colonial states, and has spiked dramatically since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Project 1907, there are more reported incidents of anti-Asian racism, per capita, in Canada than in the United States. According to this same project, women continue to be disproportionately impacted, reporting 60% of all incidents. Since the onset of COVID-19 alone, over 600 incidents of anti-Asian racism have been reported. We are not absolved from our responsibility in this.

In the narratives that have appeared since the killing of these women, another critical fact of the situation is often left out: these women were massage workers. This means that, whether or not they were sex-workers or self-identified in that way, they were subjected to sexualized violence nonetheless. Violence that is rooted in the hatred of sex workers, Asian women, working class people, and immigrants. The intersections of racism, sexism, and whorephobia (the fear, hatred, and oppression of sex workers), have a long standing history within our societies.

As a Federation, we demand respect, protection, and justice for all Asian and migrant women, sex workers, and women working in massage parlours. We support all of our Asian members, and anyone being impacted by this hate crime and ongoing acts of discrimination and racism.

If you are in need of resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, and we are happy to help connect you.

For more information, contact YFS President Kien Azinwi at president@yfs.ca



RESOURCES

@proj1907 (instagram)

We provide spaces for diasporic Asians to understand our histories, explore our identities, examine our privileges, and reclaim our power.

<https://www.project1907.org/resources>

@elimin8hate (instagram)

An organization that documents attacks against Asian-Canadians and transforms the hate into positive action.

@ccncsj (instagram)

Chinese Canadian Council for Social Justice educates, engages, and advocates for equity & justice.

@swan_vancouver (instagram)

Promotes the rights, health, & safety of im/migrant women engaged in sex work.