OPA Statement in Reaction to Hate-Based Violence

March 23, 2021
Written by: The Ohio Psychological Association’s Board of Directors and Committees

In response to the recent shooting in Atlanta and the rise in hate-based violence against the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community over the past year, OPA stands firm in our solidarity with the AAPI community while also denouncing such violent acts.

Our American society is made stronger and more resilient through diversity, and these acts of violence go against our morals and guiding principles as a pluralistic nation. The ongoing and escalating brutality, perpetuated by fear mongering and hateful rhetoric, exacerbates not only the fear of safety and security of the AAPI community, but also other peoples who are marginalized or recognize the horrific impact of such attacks on American democracy. As psychologists, we acknowledge that these events have serious, negative consequences on individual and community well-being and trust those in power to address them effectively. We at OPA would like to extend our deepest sympathies to AAPI lives lost and all individuals wounded by racist rhetoric.

OPA offers its support to the Atlanta, GA community members and our nation affected by these events as well as psychologists who serve these individuals. We also mourn the harm and malignment experienced by our vibrant AAPI community. Our Association strives to create a safe space for advocacy by promoting non-violence and the value of diversity. We do not endorse the violence or aggression. These series of events are a reminder to us of the importance of unity and the advancement of our societal knowledge of multiculturalism as we continue to navigate through these challenging times.

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The Ohio Psychological Association, in Columbus, Ohio, is membership organization of approximately 1,500 Ohio psychologists. Its mission is to advance psychology as a science, as a profession and as a means of promoting human welfare. For more information or for a psychologist referral, visit www.ohpsych.org.