Equality, Justice, and Anti-Racism Statement
March 26, 2021

The current global pandemic has been devastating to communities of color — exacerbating and exposing longstanding inequalities across a range of systems.

For Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), the pandemic has created a new platform for the enduring plague of xenophobia and racism manifesting in COVID-19 inspired racial slurs, discrimination, and acts of violence. Even as overall hate crimes fell in 2020, hate crimes against AAPIs in major U.S. cities grew nearly 150 percent. Since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group Stop AAPI Hate has recorded at least 3,795 reported incidents of hate against AAPIs. The horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday March 16, 2021 that claimed the lives of eight people, six of whom were of Asian descent and seven of whom were women, exemplify the intersectional oppression that so many minoritized people face: racism, misogyny, classism and beyond. We recognize that these murders punctuate the context of a shocking increase in anti-Asian violence, harassment and bigotry around the country.

It is important to note that the increase in these incidents do not reflect the true prevalence of this problem, as many people suffer in silence. Furthermore, while some forms of relief and services are now gradually reaching individuals, core constituencies that make up the AAPI community — immigrants and refugees, Limited English Proficient, low-income families, and seniors — are being left out. The global uprising for justice and radical transformation was sparked by the murders of many Black American at the hands of police and AAPIs were active participants in the Black Lives Matter movement. AAPIs have been suffering from xenophobia and racism in silence but we can no longer be silent. We must stand in solidarity against all forms of racism, including AAPI racism.
SUO has already taken multiple measures to promote diversity and equality. Although, we acknowledge that there is more that we can and should do, here are a few examples of actions that the Society has taken:

1. SUO has signed the Georgia Collective Statement - A Community-Centered Response to Violence Against Asian American Communities

2. SUO has hosted multiple anti-racism webinars

3. SUO has reinforced its Diversity Committee by adding new members and increasing Visiting Rotation Scholarships for Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM) students

**Surviving and resisting hate: a toolkit for people of color**

**The trauma of being black in America: Dr. Alisha Moreland-Capuia, podcast**

**Systemic racism explained, and other useful YouTube videos**

**Frequently asked questions about racism and white privilege**

**Anti-racism resources for white people and parents**

**Let's talk! Discussing race, racism and other difficult topics with students**

**How to talk about race and racism: podcast**https://www.aspenideas.org/podcasts/how-to-talk-about-race-and-racism

**Books for personal growth or group study**

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