

Dear Friends,

We can't seem to go a day without hearing about an attack on the AAPI community. And while these attacks are undoubtedly escalating, this isn't new. The United States, California in particular, has a long history of anti-Asian racism. In fact, the white xenophobia in San Francisco fueled The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 placing a 10-year moratorium on all Chinese immigration.

EDC stands with the AAPI community in solidarity and in mourning. We honor the precious lives lost, we see the pain, trauma and fear endured, and we pledge to continue to stand against anti-AAPI hate.

As we examine the role of anti-AAPI hate, we must acknowledge the intersectionality of racism and misogyny running rampant in the United States. Asian women have been fetishized, hyper-sexualized, and marginalized. According to the [Stop AAPI Hate National Report](#), women represent 68% of the victims of anti-AAPI hate crimes.

Just a few days ago a white man violently attacked and killed six AAPI women at a massage parlour. What words of support did the family and friends of the victims receive from the Atlanta Police?

*[The suspect] was pretty much fed up and kind of at the end of his rope... [it] was a really bad day for him, and this is what he did"*

*"[The suspect sees massage parlours] as something that allows him to [feed his sex addiction] and it's a temptation for him that he wanted to eliminate"*

In other words, according to the Atlanta Police, the white man who brutally murdered eight people didn't do it because of white supremacist and misogynistic tendencies. It was just an attempt to get an addiction under control by a man having a bad day. And of course the massage parlours were a temptation for him. Because every massage parlour staffed by Asian women are obviously sex dens.

And even if it were ... why does that even matter? As a society we have shunned sex workers. We have deemed them to be less-than. Why? Why is sex work even a crime? It isn't because we are trying to protect the sex workers - many of whom absolutely do need protection from sex traffickers. Legalization of something allows it to become regulated. Case in point: marijuana. And if what we wanted to do was protect sex workers, how does criminalizing them achieve that goal? Criminalizing those who purchase sex would protect sex workers. But by criminalizing sex workers we, as a society, are perpetuating misogynistic ideologies. [Sex workers' rights are human rights.](#)

When you heard that Asian women had been killed in a massage parlour, did you think the massage parlour was just a front for prostitution? If you did, ask yourself why. If you stop for even just one minute to contemplate this you will understand the depth and intersectionality of the white supremacy and misogyny fueling Tuesday's attack.

Anti-Asian racism and discrimination is virulent in the housing community. Tenants and landlords alike are subject to racist rhetoric and prejudices about their cleanliness and integrity. In 2003, The

Urban Institute (UBI) [released a report](#) commissioned by HUD. In it, UBI reported that:

1. AAPI renters face about the same level of discrimination and adverse treatment as do African American and Hispanic renters; and
2. AAPI prospective homeowners experience discrimination that is comparable to African American homebuyers and significantly higher than the level of discrimination against Hispanics.

Housing justice simply cannot exist without racial justice. Housing justice **is** racial justice.

Today I call upon everyone in the housing community (tenants, landlords, property managers, real estate agents, tenant services providers, landlord services providers, all of us) to ask ourselves

*How have I participated in and/or perpetuated anti-Asian racism?*

I know the word “racism” is scary. But we must do this work. It is in doing this work that we stand a chance at actually solving the violence besetting the AAPI community. This violence would not be happening had anti-Asian racism not been alive and well in the United States. We must do better.

To learn more about how you can interrupt the cycle of hate please go to [Stop AAPI Hate](#). There you can:

- Report a hate crime;
- Learn about the history of AAPI hate in the United States;
- Understand the nature of the harm and violence occurring to the AAPI community; and
- Learn about what you can do to stop AAPI Hate

We all need to step in and demand racial justice. We must demand that those in power take the necessary steps to end the perpetuation of white supremacy and misogyny. We need a Right to Civil Council. We need our leaders and institutions to view our laws, policies, and institutions through the lens of racial equity. We need action. And it's up to us to demand this of those in power.

in solidarity and in community,

Martina Cucullu Lim