The faculty of the Psychology Department is incensed by the explosion of violence targeting Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. On March 18, 2021, the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA) submitted written testimony to the House of Representatives for the Hearing on Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans. The AAPA stated that Anti-Asian hate crimes increased 149% in 16 US cities in 2020. Additionally, research has begun to show that the uptick in these crimes correlates with the Anti-Asian rhetoric used by some politicians when referring to COVID-19.

The faculty of the Psychology Department stands in solidarity with AAPI communities and unequivocally condemns this racism and hatred. We recognize the emotional toll that these hate crimes have exacted on AAPI communities, as so many have reported living in fear. We are saddened and angered by this fact. We are here to support you. We want you to feel safe in your department, the university, and your community. When you hurt, we hurt. Even if you are quiet, we know that does not mean you are not suffering. We recognize that some of you may be reluctant to speak out.

We are certain that diversity is a strength, not a cause for division. Additionally, we also know that words must translate into action, and we must strive to uphold our steadfast commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. As psychologists, we understand that action first requires a willingness to listen, learn from history, and analyze the lived experiences among diverse groups of people. We must recognize the disparities that have resulted due to a long history of systemic racism and other intersecting oppressions, and then work tirelessly to eliminate them.

Therefore, as a department, we recommit ourselves to working to condemn white supremacy, racism, and violence in the following ways:

1) Working across departments to dismantle racism and white supremacy within our institution and communities. This includes acknowledging the role psychology has played in the construction of racist systems, wittingly and unwittingly.

2) Integrating course material that centers the experiences and perspectives of those most impacted by systemic oppressions.

3) We will continue our efforts to reduce inequality and equity gaps across our courses.

4) We will advance and support diversity in our leadership at the department level, in the College of Liberal Arts, and at the University.

5) We will disseminate resources and continue to support the emotional lives of our students, acknowledging the unique needs of our students of color.

6) We will amplify and support the efforts of AAPI communities engaged in efforts to enact change at the institutional, community, and structural levels of our society.

Learn more about the issues and how to take action:
• Find anti-Asian violence educational links, petitions, and more HERE and HERE.
• Report hate incidents HERE.
• Attend a bystander intervention training to learn ways to stop anti-Asian American and xenophobic harassment.
• Watch the House Judiciary Committee hearing on Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans. Read the written testimony from the Asian American Psychological Association to the Judiciary Committee hearing.
• Contact your elected officials to insist that the federal government, state and local community responses to incidents of AAPI hate must be intersectional and responsive to the needs of Asian American women and elders.

In addition, we recognize that we cannot speak to the lived experience of all our students, faculty and staff. Thus, we encourage dialogue and are open to suggestions about specific resources you may need and will do whatever we can to address them.

In Solidarity,

The Faculty of the Psychology Department
March 24, 2021