

To the Rice Community,

On the evening of Tuesday, March 16th, eight people were killed in attacks in Asian-owned Atlanta massage parlors. **We want to be clear that these killings were the result of a long history of racialized and sexualized violence, primarily targeting Asian women.** This violence has been long perpetuated and shaped by sex trade and American imperial wars in Asia and the Pacific Islands and occurred in a time of increasing racism, discrimination, and violence towards the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. We condemn these horrific acts of violence, along with public messaging that obscures the clear intent to attack Asian American women and the greater AAPI community. We will not let the racism that they face continue to go unacknowledged.

It is imperative that we show solidarity with our AAPI community and [educate ourselves on the “model minority” myth](#) and the ways it silences the claims of racism against AAPIs. From The Page Act of 1875 (which predates even the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882) to Japanese Internment camps, hate crimes and microaggressions targeting AAPIs have occurred throughout American history. This trend has grown rampant since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to support our AAPI community members and not be silent in the face of the normalization of such racism and microaggressions. We must listen as they share their stories and experiences and respond with the resources and change they are asking for as they continue to process this event.

To our AAPI students: Many of you may be feeling rightfully overwhelmed, upset, and angry regarding the recent attack and the increase in hate crimes towards the AAPI community. You are all incredibly valued members of the Rice community, and your contributions do not go unnoticed. Please take the time to rest and process the troubling incident that occurred. Know that you have our full support should you choose to share your experiences or pursue any avenues of change in our community. We are here for you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there is anything we can do for you. The SA President and college presidents have proposed that the Rice University Community of Asian Alumni Legacy Endowment be approved as a Student Priority in the Rice 24-Hour Challenge to raise funds to further support students and acknowledge the struggles and hurt students have experienced.

To our AAPI faculty, staff, and admin: We’ve recently been made aware of multiple incidents of discrimination committed against Rice faculty and staff. We are deeply saddened to hear this and that you have endured these experiences alone. You have all served as role models, mentors, and support systems for many of our students, and we are humbled in hearing your stories and your bravery in sharing your experiences. We stand with you and truly appreciate and value you all. Many of you share in our frustration, exhaustion, and anger. As students, we are committed to collective action in raising awareness of AAPI bias and hate crimes. We want to show our support and understanding that the events that have occurred both at Rice and around the country are unacceptable. Thank you for all that you do for our community.

Together, we’ve organized multiple emotionally-taxing town halls, hosted discussions, and witnessed unacceptable microaggressions and hate crimes towards the AAPI community. **We call upon Rice Administration to recognize and substantively address discrimination against AAPI students, faculty, and staff.**

In solidarity,

Krithika Shamanna (SA Director of Equity 2020-2021), Peter Wang (APASA President 2020-2021), Aaron Pathak (APASA External Vice President 2020-2021), Anna Margaret Clyburn (SA President 2020-2021), Christi Nguyen (AAPI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Advocate), Kendall Vining (SA President 2021-2022)

Resources: Rice Wellbeing and Counseling Center: 713-348-3311 (24/7), APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) Therapist Directory: <https://www.asianmhc.org/apisaa>, @asiansformentalhealth on Instagram, @subtleasianmentalhealth on Facebook is offering free 1:1 supportive listening sessions, @laichientherap is offering AAPIs pay-as-you-wish therapy