May, 2021

Creighton Students,

On March 16th, 2021, eight people were killed by a brutal shooting at spas in Atlanta, GA. Their names are Soon Chung Park, Hyun Jung Grant, Suncha Kim, Yong Ae Yue, Delaina Ashley Yaun, Paul Andre Michels, Xiaojie Tan, and Daoyou Feng. Six of them are Asian women. This was a hate crime fueled by misogyny and racism against Asian, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islander communities in the United States. According to the Pew Research Center, three in ten Asian Americans have experienced racial slurs or racist jokes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Stop AAPI Hate National Report, incident reports come from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, with businesses being the primary site of discrimination (35.4%), followed by public streets (25.3%). Types of discrimination include verbal harassment (68.1%), shunning (20.5%), physical assault (11.1%), civil rights violations (8.5%), and online harassment (6.8%). Discrimination and hate crimes against Asians in the United States have been around but have unfortunately increased significantly since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Creighton Student Union (CSU) strongly condemns these racist acts against AAPI communities. These violent physical and non-physical actions are still occurring whether or not the media draws attention to them. As a Creighton community, we need to speak up about these dehumanizing actions. By staying quiet, we are not men and women for and with others, we are not respecting each person as a child of God and all of God’s creation, and we are not agents of change. We need to speak up and educate others to increase awareness. We need to listen and become aware of what is going on in our society. We all need to fight toward racial justice by educating ourselves and listening to our Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander peers.

As Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month begins on May 1st, it is a time to appreciate, learn about the contributions they have made to American history and culture, and celebrate the different AAPI cultural heritages. We call on the student body to do these things and examine how these groups are oppressed and marginalized in society.

Sincerely,

Jimena de los Santos Reyes

Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator

Creighton Students Union