



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

Statement Opposing Anti-Asian Violence

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed a spike in vitriol and violence directed to members of Asian and Asian-American communities. Crimes perpetrated against Asian and Asian American communities target the elderly, the communities' most respected and vulnerable members.

We stand in solidarity with those directly affected and with all allies who call for *both* an end to this violence *and* justice for Asian and Asian American community members who have been targeted. We applaud the efforts of those members of Congress who voted in support of House Resolution 908, calling for an end to the discriminatory language and scapegoating of individuals of Asian origin as a consequence of malicious arguments that align persons and/or nations of origin with the tragic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an interdisciplinary department of teacher-scholars, we not only condemn the racism and discrimination these acts embody, but we explicitly commit to challenging the operation of *systemic* discrimination by building cultural competence that combines awareness, fluency, and respect among our students, by fostering classroom environments that model openness to diversity and critical thinking in our dialogues, and by openly addressing the explicit and implicit conditions that produce violent attitudes and acts in theory as well as practice. We extend our support to our students, our colleagues, and our fellow human beings who are suffering in communities both near and far. We see you, hear you, and we affirm that there is no home for hatred within the Department of Psychology and Philosophy, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sam Houston State University, or in any community, local or global.