



## Health and Well-Being Unit Statement to UR Students on Racial Injustice

The Health and Well-Being Unit staff is heartbroken as we grieve for the loss of life and for the families who have lost loved ones following the growing wave of anti-Asian rhetoric and violence, that has escalated in frequency and severity, since the start of the pandemic.

The recent murders of 8 people in Atlanta, including 6 Asian women, was the tragic, yet predictable outcome of the precipitous increase in attacks directed at people of Asian descent over this past year. These xenophobic attacks have been made more potent, insidious, and dehumanizing by the reluctance of some to label them as acts of racism and as hate crimes.

The murders in Atlanta are but the latest in the seemingly unending list of murders of people of color. As we stood in solidarity with Black persons, we stand now with Asian persons in this time of sorrow and grief.

We denounce anti-Asianness, and the continued violence and systematic oppression connected to racism. In addition, it is critical we continue to engage in the difficult, uncomfortable, and yet vital conversations about xenophobia, racism, and bigotry that serve to maintain systems of oppression.

The Mission of the Health and Well-Being Unit is “the creation and [maintenance] of a culture and community of health and well-being,” which includes physical and emotional well-being. Because we all bear the responsibility of this mission, we each resolve to work harder to realize these goals because so many within our Web community – students, staff and faculty – are not experiencing justice, compassion, or equity in their lives because of their ethnicity or some other aspects of their identity and personhood.

As members of our world-wide Spider Web who are repulsed and outraged by recent events continue to join with those members who have been directly impacted by these events, let us do so actively in solidarity and support, demonstrating that we all represent the better part of humanity.