

Statement on Hate Crimes

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission condemns the rising acts of violence directed at members of the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, and denounces the March 16, 2021, murders of eight people in Atlanta, Georgia. Six of the victims were women of Asian descent working in the massage industry.

Xenophobia, white supremacy, gender-based violence, economic inequities, and structural racism are long-embedded in our nation's history, and they compound on each other. They've caused so many people in our communities to live in fear for their safety and grieve for loved ones victimized by hateful rhetoric and violence. These forces created a world where Asian women are often stereotyped as commodities, their labor and their bodies made available for exploitation by others. Asian women are so often at risk of being trafficked both for sex and labor and combatting both of these forms of human trafficking is at the heart of this commission's work. To succeed in ending this exploitation, we must acknowledge and confront the intersectional nature of the violence and harassment that targets and "others" vulnerable members of our society.

We mourn for the lives lost, and for the families, friends, and communities of the victims. We stand in solidarity with those working to address structural racism, misogyny, and gender-based violence in all forms. We support the efforts of people and organizations across North Carolina and the nation who are working toward greater justice and equity for all people, especially those who have been marginalized and made vulnerable to violence by systemic racism and deeply rooted bigotry.

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission remains committed to actively addressing the intersecting forces of structural bias and hatred that lead to some people being commodified, trafficked, and exploited, and continuing to partner with those serving victims and survivors of trafficking.

April 22, 2021

North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission