



Dear Members and Friends of NAECTE,

We reel from the painful news coming out of Atlanta and we grieve the eight lives that were lost – including six Asian women–by senseless acts of gun violence. Every day, and especially today, we stand in solidarity and mourn with Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities as we respond to these murders, senseless acts of violence, and tremendous loss of precious lives. We also stand with NAEYC in their [statement on the recent tragedy](#); Korean-American Educational Researchers Association's [Statement](#); American Educational Research Association's [Statement](#); Chinese American Educational Research Association and Development's [statement](#); National Association of Multicultural Education's [Statement](#), and so many strong voices! The terrifying escalation of hate crimes targeting Asians in our country continues the increased racial violence and harassment. And, we know that it is impossible to remove the tragedy from its context.

All around the country, we are likely to encounter different ways of seeing this tragic event. Instead, we recommend paying close attention to the people, organizations, and communities who are experiencing direct harm, such as Asians, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and immigrants, among many others. Ask how we can be of support and lean into being in community *with*. After all, this is what we do as early childhood professionals--to stay informed, examine critically, and most of all to resist hate and violence and teach our children well! Here are a few great places to start: [Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta's Community Response](#); [Learning for Justice's Statement](#); [Resources to Address Anti-Asian Racism](#); and [National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum's Statement](#).

These tragedies can feel distant for some. We know that we have to enact clear policy, curriculum, and communication that will help ensure there is no place for hatred, racism or violence in any of our schools or our communities. We have to purposefully work to create places where ALL people belong. This social transformation and justice work begins with us putting one foot in front of the other in our National Association and working out into our early childhood educator communities, and on into our many schools, in-home environments, and the whole field of early childhood education. We can permeate and make a difference! We know we can! As we often do, we will continue to provide and offer support on our [Facebook page](#) for resources available toward anti-racism and anti-bias efforts.

The NAECTE Board