This past week, our nation watched in horror as 8 people, 6 of whom were Asian American women, were violently and tragically murdered. While anti-Asian violence is not new in our country or our state, xenophobic rhetoric since the outbreak of COVID-19 has led to a swift uprise in anti-Asian racism, harassment, and violence. We, as the City Council of Westminster and the Inclusivity Board, condemn all forms of race and gender-based violence. We stand firmly with our Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) neighbors and friends and will not tolerate hate or discrimination in any form against our AAPI community.

While the motive of this heinous crime has given rise to some debate, it's critical to note the intersectionality of race and gender, and the inextricable link of race and gender-based hate and violence. The intersectional nature of Asian American women can be clearly seen in the many negative stereotypes our society perpetuates, and which were pointed to as the killer's motive. This exemplifies how this crime, and many others, must be identified as racially motivated and hate-based, as well as gender-based.

To our AAPI sisters and brothers, friends and neighbors: we see you and we value you. We are committed to ensuring Westminster is a safe city for you to live, work, and engage in. We are here to listen and learn, and strive for you to feel not only welcome, but vital to our collective sense of community.

It is urgent that we come together as a community to make it known that hate has no home here. We must look within ourselves and within our community to evaluate where our biases lie and take the necessary steps to be a part of the solution. The rise in AAPI hate crimes is unacceptable and reminds us that we have more work to do to help our community be the equitable and inclusive place we want.

By working together, we can find solutions to address historical and current inequity and achieve justice, peace and safety for all in our city.

How you can help:

Act

Report hate incidents to the Westminster Police Department at 303 658 2400

Report hate incidents to Stop AAPI Hate.

Raise awareness and learn more by following the hashtag #StopAAPIHate on social media.

Ensure your company has <u>implemented anti-discrimination policies</u> that protect Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders using this PDF.

Donate

AAPI Women Lead

NAPAWF (National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum)

Asian Pacific Fund

Asian Pacific Development Center Of Colorado

Learn

Podcast: <u>Self Evident: Asian American's Stories</u>

Documentaries: PBS' <u>Asian Americans</u> is a five-part series on the history of Asians in America and <u>#AsianAmCovidStories</u> is a YouTube series exploring Asian Americans' experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Children's book: Young, Proud, and Sung-jee on anti-Asian racism during COVID-19

History Colorado: Asian Pacific Coloradans

Colorado Public Radio: Anti-Asian Hatred Has A Long History In The US, And In Colorado