



# Society of University Surgeons

## SUS Statement on Anti-Asian Racism and Violence

The global pandemic has demonstrated to each and every one of us how interconnected we are as a community. Though we have witnessed heroic acts on the frontlines in the quest to eradicate COVID-19, there has sadly been another disturbing trend: the rise in inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric and an escalating pattern of anti-Asian hate crimes.

According to the Center for Study of Hate and Extremism's survey of police departments in 16 major US cities, there has been a 149 percent rise in Anti-Asian hate crimes in 2020 (1). The United Nations has also documented that since the outbreak of COVID-19, all types of violence against women and girls have intensified (2). Sadly, both of these trends overlapped with the tragic loss of life last week, when eight people were murdered in Atlanta. Six of those killed were of Asian descent, and seven were women.

The Society of University Surgeons rises to condemn this violence and the hate that motivates it. In 2020, the SUS stated our commitment to stand with our sister societies against racism (3). In alignment with our mission, we again speak out to emphatically oppose racism, sexism, and discrimination in all forms, and to deplore its impact on our members and society in general.

The SUS stands in solidarity with our sister organizations, who are committed to building a more inclusive society. We offer our unequivocal support to our members and our communities during these challenging times, and reaffirm our commitment to a more just society.

### References:

1. Fact Sheet: Anti-Asian Hate 2020 <https://www.csusb.edu/sites/default/files/FACT%20SHEET-%20Anti-Asian%20Hate%202020%203.2.21.pdf> ; Accessed March 19, 2021
2. The Shadow Pandemic: Violence against women during COVID-19 <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19> ; Accessed March 19, 2021
3. Society of University Surgeons (SUS) Statement on Racism and Recent Deaths <https://www.susweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-SUS-Statement-on-Racism-and-Recent-Deaths.pdf> ; Accessed March 19, 2021

**Kasper Wang, MD**

President

**Rebekah White, MD**

President-Elect

**Danny Chu, MD**

Secretary

**Timothy Donahue, MD**

Treasurer

**Sandra Wong, MD, MS**

Immediate Past-President

**Thomas K. Varghese Jr., MD, MS**

Chair, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee

**Tracy Wang, MD, MPH**

Chair, Social and Legislative Issues Committee