



Dear Tiny Tots community,

We write today to share our grief for the loss of the eight people murdered Tuesday in Atlanta. While we do not yet know all the details, the attacks appeared to target the Asian-American community and female gender. Six of those killed were of Asian descent and seven were women. The loss of life is compounded by what underlies it — hate, anti-Asian discrimination, misogyny, and white supremacy. We must condemn this violence and the hate that motivates it unequivocally and with one voice.

This tragedy highlights an escalating pattern of anti-Asian hate crimes that we have seen in our region and country over the past year. Anti-Asian hate crimes have increased by 149 percent in 2020, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism's survey of police departments in 16 major U.S. cities. Throughout the pandemic we have also seen an increase in violence against women worldwide.

Facing a global pandemic together has shown us how inextricably connected our community is at every level. Many, however, have used the pandemic as one more vehicle for fomenting racist, sexist, anti-Asian sentiment and as a cover for enacting violence against people based on their racial and ethnic backgrounds. Those in the media used xenophobic language around the COVID 19 virus which threatened to further fuel discrimination and hate crimes against Asian Americans, which were already a significant concern due to longstanding interpersonal and structural racism.

There is never justification for such violence and there is no truth to any account that blames a particular group or country for COVID-19 or any of its variants. We urge you to speak up and voice the truth if you hear these racist claims.

Sincerely,

Angelia Hicks-Maxie

Angelia Hicks-Maxie CEO
Tiny Tots Development Center