



COLLEGE *of*  
CHARLESTON

DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

It is with heavy hearts that we once again find ourselves in position to speak out against violence rooted in racism. Like so many in our College of Charleston, Political Science Department, and MPA Program community, we are enraged and grief-stricken by the Atlanta-area mass shooting last week. We are frustrated at what has been referred to as a “skyrocketing spike” in violence and hate against the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The violence against the AAPI community has deep historical roots in the United States only recently exacerbated by racially motivated violence from people angry about the pandemic. We recognize that silence signals complicity and perpetuates anti-Asian American racism and misogyny, and we also know that statements are not enough.

In addition to speaking out, we must also be committed to action. These horrific events underscore the importance of the Political Science Department and MPA program’s continued commitment to promoting racial and social equity through the implementation of the MPA Program Diversity Plan. Justice is a core principle of our mission and an essential value that guides our work. We will continue our efforts to convene and engage in difficult conversations, no matter how challenging, in furtherance of a more just and equitable society.

For any students or community members seeking support, many resources such as counseling services can be found here: <https://wellness.cofc.edu/>. As always, the Political Science and MPA faculty and staff are also here to offer support one-on-one in any capacity that we can.

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