

Statement on Anti-Asian Violence

The Asian Descent Presidents and Deans Affinity Group
of the Association of Theological Schools

March 30, 2021

We, the Asian Descent Presidents and Deans, of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) condemn and denounce every form of attack against Asians and Asian Americans in the strongest possible terms. As a minoritized group, Asian Americans have been historically subject to harassment, discrimination, violence, and mass incarceration. The recent targeted violent and brutal attacks on the members of our community are abhorrent manifestations of perennial racism against the Americans of Asian descent in our country. The targeted violence unto killing of the most vulnerable—women and the elderly—is especially deplorable. It is a direct assault on our community that honors and values family deeply. We reject white supremacy and xenophobia and urge an end to the scapegoating of Asian and Asian Americans for the pandemic.

The Asian and Asian American community is an ethnically and culturally diverse group that has made valuable contributions to our society—particularly so during this pandemic. We claim our rightful place in our country and demand to be treated equally and with dignity. We ask all of us to respect and protect the life of every member of our community.

We call upon all members of ATS to speak against anti-Asian racism in our institution and nation. We ask you to join in our fight for justice and the equal rights of people of Asian descent, as each and every one of us is called to bear witness to God's justice and mercy for all people.

The members and friends of the Asian Descent Presidents and Deans Affinity Group at the Association of Theological Schools listed below do hereby stand in solidarity as the signatories of the Statement:

<p>Dr. Susan Abraham, VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Pacific School of Religion Vice-Chair, ATS Asian Descent Presidents and Deans Group</p> <p>Dr. Efrain Agosto, Professor of New Testament Studies, New York Theological Seminary Member, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Kenton C. Anderson, President Elect, Providence University College and Theological Seminary Member, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Ellen T. Armour, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Vanderbilt Divinity School</p> <p>Dr. Brian K. Blount, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary Past President, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Valerie Bridgeman, Dean & VP of Academic Affairs, Methodist Theological School in Ohio</p> <p>Dr. Fernando A. Cascante, Executive Director, AETH (Asociación para la Educación Teológica Hispana)</p> <p>Dr. Jo Ann Deasy, Director of Institutional Initiatives and Student Research, The ATS The COA</p> <p>Dr. Ann Garrido, Associate Professor of Homiletics, Aquinas Institute of Theology Member, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Deborah H. C. Gin, Director of Research and Faculty Development, The ATS The COA</p> <p>Rev. Dr. David S. Han, Dean of the Faculty and VP for Academics, Pentecostal Theological Seminary Chair, ATS Asian Descent Presidents and Deans Group</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer A. Herdt, Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Yale Divinity School</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Jin K. Hwang, Associate Professor of New Testament, The School of Divinity, Georgia Central University</p> <p>Ms. Amy Kardash, President, In Trust for Theological Schools</p> <p>Dr. Hyunwan Kim, Academic Dean of the Graduate School, Grace Mission University</p> <p>Dr. Uriah Y. Kim, President, Graduate Theological Union</p> <p>Dr. Deborah Krause, President, Eden Theological Seminary</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, President, Claremont School of Theology</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Claremont School of Theology</p> <p>Dr. Amir Hussain, Chair of Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Boyung Lee, Senior VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, Iliff School of Theology</p> <p>Rev. Dr. James Seung-Hyun Lee, President, International Theological Seminary Steering Committee Member, Asian Descent Presidents and Deans Group</p> <p>Rev. Dr. John Y. Lee, Academic Dean, John Leland Center for Theological Studies</p> <p>Dr. Sanghoon Lee, President, America Evangelical University Graduate School of Theology</p> <p>Dr. Sang Meyng Lee, President, Presbyterian Theological Seminary in America</p> <p>Dr. Katheryn Leung, President, China Evangelical Seminary North America</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Kuo-Liang Lin, President, Logos Evangelical Seminary</p> <p>Dr. Vanessa Lovelace, VP of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Seminary, Lancaster Theological Seminary</p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Wonsuk Ma, Dean of the College of Theology and Ministry, Oral Roberts University</p> <p>Rev. Dr. David Mellott, President, Christian Theological Seminary</p> <p>Dr. Esther Menn, Dean of Academic Affairs, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago</p> <p>Dr. Christine Mitchell, Professor of Hebrew Scriptures, St. Andrew's College ATS Commission on Accrediting Commissioner</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Deborah Flemister Mullen, Columbia Theological Seminary Past Co-Convener of the ATS African American Presidents and Deans Group</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Damayanthi Niles, Interim Academic Dean, Eden Theological Seminary</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Alvin Padilla, VP of Strategic Initiatives and Director of Advanced Degrees, Western Theological Seminary</p> <p>Dr. Rollin A. Ramsaran, Academic Dean, Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan</p> <p>Dr. Lester Edwin J. Ruiz, Director of Accreditation and Global Engagement, The ATS The COA</p> <p>Rev. Dr. J. Jayakiran Sebastian, Dean of the Seminary, United Lutheran Seminary</p> <p>Dr. Love Sechrest, VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty, Columbia Theological Seminary</p> <p>Rev. Seon Mook Shin, Vice President, World Mission University School of Theology</p> <p>Dr. Chloe Sun, Academic Dean, Logos Evangelical Seminary Steering Committee Member, Asian Descent Presidents and Deans Affinity Group</p> <p>Dr. Beth Tanner, Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, New Brunswick Theological Seminary</p> <p>Rev. Christopher M. The, PhD Cand., Director of Commission Information Services, The ATS The COA</p> <p>Dr. Felix Theonugraha, President, Western Theological Seminary</p> <p>Dr. Emilie Maureen Townes, Dean, Vanderbilt Divinity School Member, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Mai-Anh Le Tran, VP for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary</p> <p>Dr. David Vásquez-Levy, President, Pacific School of Religion Convener of the ATS LatinX Presidents and Deans Group</p> <p>Dr. Frank Yamada, Executive Director, The ATS The COA</p> <p>Dr. Mary H. Young, Director of Leadership Education, The ATS The COA</p> <p>Dr. Amos Yong, Dean of the School of Theology and the School of Intercultural Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary</p> <p>Dr. Mark Young, President, Denver Seminary President, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Arch Wong, Professor of Practical Theology, Ambrose Seminary of Ambrose University ATS Commission on Accrediting Commissioner</p> <p>Dr. Maria Liu Wong, Provost, City Seminary of New York Public Member, ATS Board of Directors</p> <p>Dr. Scott Woodard, President, Oblate School of Theology</p>
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