

## A Statement of Solidarity and Compassion March 2021

We are heartbroken by the stream of reports about acts of terror and harassment directed towards Asian, Asian American, Asian Canadian, and Pacific Islander communities. We stand against all forms of hatred towards people of Asian descent, and towards all People of Color, including Black and Indigenous peoples.

Although this is an international phenomenon, (including incidents in Mexico and Canada), the reports of hate-based violence in the United States towards AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) communities over the last year, and in recent months and days, have been particularly distressing.

There are members of our communities who have been affected by this violence and hate, directly and indirectly. We wish to express our heartfelt solidarity and support to all those particularly impacted.

Although present circumstances are new, we know that in the United States this is also a continuation of a long history of exclusion, marginalization, xenophobic scapegoating, and gendered stereotyping. This history is not often known and too seldom discussed, a silence which can further contribute to the pain of invisibilization (being made invisible).

Grounded in our Buddhist values of non-harm, we wish to bring into being a more wise and compassionate world, where all beings are free from delusion, and where no one lives in fear. This includes a commitment to working with our own minds, working lovingly with each other and in our larger communities to free ourselves of racism in all its forms.

-- The Seattle Buddhist Center Council