

Anti-Asian Racism in the time of COVID

Anti-Asian Violence in Canada

Many of you have now heard about the brutal massacre of eight people, six of whom were Asian women, at massage parlor & spa in Atlanta, Georgia last week. This is not an isolated incident, but is a disturbing acceleration of increasing anti-Asian racism around the world. The Children's Bridge would like to acknowledge and honour the memory of these eight individuals here.

- Soon Chung Park:
 - 74-years old
 - Led a healthy and active lifestyle
 - Survived by her daughter and son-in-law
- Hyun Jung Grant:
 - 51-years old
 - Loved karaoke and dancing
 - Survived by two sons
- Suncha Kim:
 - 69-years old
 - Loved to line dance and volunteer her time to various causes
 - Wife, mother and grandmother
- Yong Ae Yue:
 - 63-years old
 - Loved to cook traditional Korean food and enjoyed Korean karaoke
 - Survived by two sons
- Delaina Ashley Yaun:
 - 33-years old
 - Married for less than a year
 - Survived by her 13-year-old son and 8-month-old daughter
- Paul Andre Michels:
 - 54-years old
 - Worked as a handyman for the spa
 - Enjoyed riding dirt bikes and summers at the lake

- Xiaojie Tan:
 - Owner of the spa/massage parlor
 - 49-years old
 - Dreamed of travelling the world
 - Survived by one daughter
- Daoyou Feng:
 - 44-years old
 - Recently started working at the spa, was quiet and reserved
- Elcias R. Hernandez-Ortiz
 - Survived the shooting but is in critical condition after being shot in the forehead, lungs and stomach
 - 30-years old
 - Originally from Guatemala
 - Has lived in Atlanta since 2015 with his wife and 9-year-old daughter.

Taken from: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2021/03/19/who-are-atlanta-shooting-spa-victims/4762802001/>

A Note on Asian Names:

Refusing to learn names that seem “different” than what we expect in North America is an act of racism, and happens to people of Asian descent on a regular basis in Canada. Often times, this doesn’t appear as a blatant “refusal”, but is more subversive and is articulated in ways such as “Oh, I don’t want to get that wrong, so I’ll just call you (insert Anglicized/nickname here)”, assuming pronunciation (pro-tip: you’re probably wrong) or mis-pronouncing a name after you’ve been corrected. This happens on a daily basis to our children in school, on sports teams, and to adults in the workplace.

Here are a few things you can do now to approach this in an anti-racist way.

Read “How to have an open conversation with kids”

<https://globalnews.ca/news/7711053/anti-asian-racism-canada-kids/>

Read “Why Name Pronunciation Is So Much More Important Than You Think”:

<https://www.scarymommy.com/name-pronunciation-important/>

Watch “Say My Name” – a short video produced by Chinese University students explaining what their Chinese name means to them: <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-asia-39139033>

Follow Yan Kung on Twitter @KungLab, where he explains the following:

“Are you sad and angry about the surge in anti-Asian violence? Wondering if there is something anti-racist you can do? One idea – learn how to pronounce Asian names! It doesn’t have to be perfect. Just try, and it will make a difference to your Asian friends and people you meet”

A few resources to get you started:

- <https://silc.asu.edu/content/how-pronounce-common-chinese-names>
- <https://www.unh.edu/sites/default/files/workshop1-2018-09-27-pronouncing-chinese-names1.pdf>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCdv_p9UQHA
- Korean Names: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEzNHkImSME>
- Korean Names You Always Pronounce Incorrectly: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGyaFypNEVk>

While this particular horrific act of violence was perpetrated in the USA, it must be noted that since the onset of COVID-19, Asian people within Canada have experienced more incidents per capital than the USA of anti-Asian hate crimes. The statistics are alarming, and we urge families parenting children of Asian descent to be particularly vigilant at this time.

Since 2020, Vancouver has seen a 97% increase in anti-Asian racial violence and hate crimes (717% increase), while Ottawa has seen a 57% increase. Asian women have been disproportionately targeted, a stark reminder that racism and misogyny often go hand-in-hand.

While anti-hate legislation and calls for “hate crime persecution” looks good for politicians in the media, it does very little to reduce race-based crimes. Not many people stop to think of the jail term associated with a crime before hurling a racial epitaph. Ally-ship works most effectively when it happens from the ground-up, leading to real change at a societal level. Let us not pass the buck to our politicians and law-makers, and instead work to take real action and become an anti-racist ally during these trying times.

Anti-Racist Measures You Can Take Today

1) Educate Yourself:

- Know the statistics, and learn the long history of anti-Asian racism in Canada
- <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/reports-of-anti-asian-hate-crimes-are-surg-ing-in-canada-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-1.5351481>
- <https://www.coursera.org/learn/indigenous-canada#about>

2) Support the Voices of Adoptees and BIPOC:

- Voices of Adoptees: <http://www.adopteeson.com/>
- Financially support BIPOC-owned businesses
 - <https://blackottawa411.weebly.com/>
 - <https://secondstorypress.ca/wavemaker/2020/6/12/black-and-indigenous-owned-bookstores-in-canada-and-the-usa>
 - <https://www.adopteebridge.org/>

3) Learn About Anti-Racism:

- *The Anti-Racism Starter Pack: 40 TV Series, Documentaries, Movies, TED Talks, and Books to Add to Your List* by Brea Baker <https://parade.com/1046031/breabaker/anti-racist-tv-movies-documentaries-ted-talks-books/?fbclid=IwAR1kNXcm8Z3w2-G0HP9XIk9C30PPGdlzLXX06WoOs3Z5rKxoOw5hXvXUOc#.XubJCVFmCyo.facebook>
- *25 Anti-Racist Instagram Accounts to Follow for Listening, Learning and Action-Taking*: <https://parade.com/1045757/stephanieosmanski/anti-racist-instagram-accounts-to-follow/>
- 101 Things White People Can Do For Social Justice: <https://medium.com/equality-includes-you/what-white-people-can-do-for-racial-justice-f2d18b0e0234>
- Anti-racism Daily Newsletter – Nicole Cardova: <https://www.antiracismdaily.com/>

These ideas are just the very tip of a very wide and deep iceberg, but will get you started on days you just are not sure where to start. Just start.