At Alum Rock Counseling Center, we stand for diversity, inclusion and equity. We are in solidarity with our Asian and Pacific Islander-American friends, colleagues, families and the community we serve. We are aware of the increase of aggressive language and violence towards the Asian community and, with last week's murder of six Asian women in Georgia, we say enough is enough.

We recognize the long history of selective informal and official intimidation, and dismissiveness toward Asians in America, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and Japanese Internment Executive Order in 1942. Since the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic, a recent study showed that hate crimes decreased in major American cities by 7% overall, but those targeting Asian and Pacific Islander people increased by 150%. However, while data is essential in addressing social problems, the reality of vast underreporting makes hate crimes difficult to measure. Whatever the numbers are, aggressive language and actions are unacceptable. Xenophobic words, particularly from elected leaders, such as assigning blame for the origin of the pandemic have very likely contributed to this increase, which has for our Asian-American colleagues, friends and family caused them to feel (and be) less safe.

In general, the world has been having a bad year. Nonetheless, we have come together, inventing and delivering life-saving vaccines, protecting each other by abiding by social distance public orders, passing massive stimulus packages to protect paychecks and economic stability, listening and supporting our community via telehealth.

At Alum Rock Counseling Center, we build resilience in our children, youth, families, and community, inspiring healthy behavior, and healing trauma. As we work with youth and families who sometimes are aggressive or violent, we seek to understand with empathy and dignity, as we gently heal and firmly build skills, so that families are safe and our community is safe. We stand for safety, respect, and kindness. We stand together with our Asian and Pacific Islander-American friends, colleagues, family and the community we serve.

For further information, please visit https://stopaapihate.org/