



Statement on Abuse of Women of Asian descent

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, racism, discrimination and xenophobia has found fertile ground across Europe, Canada and the United States. Due to the first occurrence of the virus in Wuhan China, people of Asian descent have become targets of verbal abuse and harassment, including racial slurs, threats, derogatory remarks and, indeed, physical violence.

Xenophobia continues to impact the lives of millions of people, in particular, women who face intersectional discrimination. Violence against women and girls, now being recognised as the “Dual Pandemic”, has increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The use of the term “China virus” in reference to COVID-19 by high profile figures, and perpetuated by extremist far-right groups, has led to tragic consequences for people of Asian descent. In Canada, such incidents have increased to sixty-five percent (65%) and in the US by one hundred and twenty two percent (122%). In the US, statistics show that Asian Americans reported having been targeted five hundred times (500) or more, in the last two months. In Europe, research has also shown an increase in abuse and attacks against Asian peoples. The shootings in Atlanta Georgia, are a heinous act against humanity. Hate speech had tragic consequences. Eight innocent people were slaughtered, and six of the victims were women.

Increasing numbers of people are facing racism, discrimination and human rights violations based on the color of their skin, origins, or their faith. The North America and Europe Caucus of women deplures, denounces and condemns all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia, harassment and abuse, especially if these result in violence. In particular we denounce the targeting of Asian communities in Europe,



North America and Europe CSW Caucus

Canada and the United States. History teaches us that such negative sentiments lead to genocide, suppression and oppression.

As civil society, we must protect and defend the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the inalienable right of all people to live a free and safe life based on the principles of the oneness of humankind. Human rights can only be protected through the recognition and acceptance of the oneness of humanity which demands that prejudice—whether racial, religious, or gender related—must be totally eliminated. The elimination of all forms of discrimination and prejudice contributes to building inclusive, harmonious and peaceful societies, free of harm and prejudice. Inclusive and peaceful societies build friendly and peaceful relationships among states, and their peoples, and will lead to the peaceful and prosperous world to which every noble hearted person is working.

Canada

https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/anti-asian-racism-canada_ca_603d08cdc5b682971502118f

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/reports-of-anti-asian-hate-crimes-are-surg-ing-in-canada-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-1.5351481>

US

<https://www.statista.com/chart/24442/anti-asian-hate-crime/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/16/us/asian-americans-hate-incidents-report/index.html>

Europe

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkdpmb/france-covid-anti-asian-sentiment> and

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/covid-19-crisis-triggers-eu-racism-against-asians-rights-agency-says/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52605319>

<https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/wake-xenophobia-new-racism-europe>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/03/03/uk/coronavirus-assault-student-london-scli-intl-gbr/index.html>