



To the Jayhawk community,

We, the women of the Panhellenic Association Executive Board and the Panhellenic Chapter Presidents at the University of Kansas, stand united against the racism, xenophobia, and intolerance toward Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander individuals that permeates our community, our campus, and our nation, including the murders of eight people in Atlanta on March 16.

These attacks are one manifestation of the racism that is embedded within the fabric of the United States and the extreme injustice and prejudice that the AAPI community has faced throughout its history, made more severe by the rhetoric that has persisted throughout the ongoing pandemic. These acts of racism are unconscionable and hold no place in our community or anywhere beyond.

We encourage members and non-members alike who have or are experiencing racism to report to the IOA to initiate a formal investigation by KU, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs for support, and access counseling through Counseling and Psychological Services to receive help with any trauma from a licensed professional. You are not alone in this fight for equality.

In the wake of this tragedy, we encourage all Panhellenic members to sign the Asian Americans Advancing Justice statement: the Atlanta community's collective response calling on its local and state governments to provide "crisis intervention resources, including in-language support for mental health, legal, employment and immigration services." We urge Panhellenic members to donate to the Atlanta victims and their families, speak out and report when you witness these blatant acts of racism as well as the countless microaggressions that occur on a daily basis, check in on your AAPI friends and family and offer them support, and emphasize the importance of meeting these attacks on the AAPI community with legislation by contacting your elected officials.

Panhellenic leadership is committed to doing our part to combat the status quo by continuing to focus on increasing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging training across our organization. We are dedicated to educating our members about the history of AAPI discrimination in the United States and within our own community, ensuring that our members have access to the necessary resources to report and combat acts of racism and intolerance, and being outspoken advocates against the systemic inequalities of our country.

To our white members: by not using your voice and privilege to actively combat racism in our community, you are complicit in its prevalence. This fight should not fall on your BIPOC members to battle alone, as they have been forced to do for long enough. It is important to remember what our core pillar of Friendship encompasses; there is only one way for Panhellenic to move forward, and that is by uniting against the racism, ableism, and classism that has been allowed to thrive in our community for far too long. We are not free until everyone is free.

Your voice matters now more than ever.

In solidarity and support,

University of Kansas Panhellenic Executive Board

Mia Aronson, President, Alpha Chi Omega

Emma Miller, President, Alpha Delta Pi

Leah Stein, President, Chi Omega

Christina Valdez, President, Delta Delta Delta

Emily Lentz, President, Delta Gamma

Macy Talkington, President, Gamma Phi Beta

Leah Ervin, President, Kappa Alpha Theta

Marena Sever, President, Kappa Delta

Emily Seyfarth, President, Kappa Kappa Gamma

Maddie Brown, President, Pi Beta Phi

Sarah Chafin, President, Sigma Kappa

LINKS

On Campus Resources:

IOA: <http://ioa.ku.edu/office-institutional-opportunity-access>

OMA: <https://oma.ku.edu/contact-us>

CAPS: <https://caps.ku.edu/first-appointment-process>

Action Steps:

Signature for Asian Americans Advancing Justice:

<https://www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org/aaajcommunitystatement>

Donate:

<https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/support-georgias-asian-american-community/>

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/victims-fund>