

women's

FACULTY AND STAFF NETWORK

19 March 2021

Dear UT-Arlington Faculty and Staff,

We, the executive team of UT-Arlington's Women's Faculty & Staff Network, are disheartened to learn of the eight lives that were lost in Atlanta on Tuesday. Of those lost in this senseless act of violence, seven were women and six were of Asian descent. We join other voices globally in noting that this tragedy highlights the rising violence and xenophobia against the Asian community, along with anti-Asian discrimination, hate and misogyny. Since the beginning of the pandemic, violent crimes against the Asian community have increased by ~150%, with more than 3,800 cases in 2020 and 531 in 2021. During the pandemic, crimes against women have risen worldwide. It is important to note that an estimated two million Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have served on the front lines of the COVID pandemic crisis as health care providers, first responders, and in other essential roles, while being the first to experience business hardships and long-lasting unemployment. We, the executive team, are saddened by and acknowledge the pain, distress and trauma that the Asian community is experiencing. We believe that Asian Lives Matter and condemn all acts of violence. The WFSN at UT Arlington is a support network for all women and stand with the Asian community. We recognize that in order to address anti-Asian discrimination, we must commit to understanding the Asian experience in the United States. We must work to end all forms of discrimination through equity and inclusive practices and offer everyone a seat at the table, a voice and support.

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