

April 13, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is with sadness and compassion that we bear witness to the increase in anti-Asian racism in the United States since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. The Zen Community of Oregon condemns anti-Asian racism and stands by Asian-Americans in the face of this rise of hateful speech and actions. We grieve with our Sangha members, friends, and loved ones who are of Asian heritage.

Although our statement has been spurred by the recent murder of six Asian women in Atlanta, Georgia, and other episodes of physical violence against Asians in the US, we wish to acknowledge that racism has a long history in North America.

We vow to work peacefully to end racism, violence, harassment and unjust actions against people of Asian descent, as well as against those who are Black, Indigenous, and other people of color. We stand in solidarity for the right of every being to live in ease, comfort and safety.

We are deeply grateful to the Asian ancestors in our lineage Indian, Chinese, and Japanese, and the teachers from Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, Tibet and other Asian countries who have dedicated their lives to our liberation. We vow to continue their work through our practice together.

With Gassho,

ZCO Board and Teachers:

Jan Chozen Bays

Nancy Kodo Conover

Patrick Kenryo Dunn

Nan Kyoko Whitaker Emrich

Jim Shikaku Horner

Bill Dainen Kelly

Laura Jomon Martin

Hogen Bays

Jogen Salzberg

Amy Kisei Costenbader

Larry Fuho Trussell

Patrick Bansho Green

Ed Gensho Welsh

Darah Shonin Ashton

Danney Soten Lynch

Sara Shinei Monial