



MELISSA AGARD
STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 17, 2021

Contact: Sidney Litke, Communications Director, (608) 266-9170

Sen. Melissa Agard Denounces Atlanta Shootings of Asian Women and All Forms of Anti-Asian Violence

MADISON—Today, Sen. Melissa Agard (D-Madison) and Outreach Director and second-generation Asian American, Megan Wittman, released the following statements regarding the March 16, 2021 Atlanta-area shootings and deaths of six Asian women:

Sen. Melissa Agard:

“Last night in the Atlanta area, we witnessed horrible violence targeting the Asian and Asian American community. No one deserves to live in fear because of their race or ethnic background. I stand with the victims and their families as well as all of the Asian and Asian American communities who are grieving. We need to commit to a better future for our Asian and Asian American neighbors.

In the last year, we have continued to witness racially-charged violence against the Asian and Asian American population. The shootings in the Atlanta area and increased anti-Asian hate crimes across our nation are a product of extremism and disgusting rhetoric that has been perpetuated and reinforced by white supremacy, particularly by the previous presidential administration and his supporters.

Our country has a long and violent history in its treatment of Asians and Asian Americans. We must condemn any anti-Asian bigotry and violence, and it is imperative that we take collective action in protecting our communities to ensure that last night’s senseless and racist brutality does not happen again.”

Megan Wittman, Sen. Agard’s Outreach Director and second-generation Asian American:

“As an Asian American woman, the violence enacted against fellow Asian and Asian American women is particularly difficult for me to watch. Anti-Asian radicalism and violent rhetoric is far from new in this country, and it is exhausting to continue to witness and experience these types of aggression.

Anti-Asian hatred is rooted in white supremacy, and the failure to condemn last night’s violence and any violence against our Asian and Asian American communities is to maintain white supremacist values. Violence takes many forms, from the words we use to racist rhetoric and microaggressions to physical violence and hate crimes like we witnessed last night.

I stand in solidarity and mourn with the victims and their families. I implore all our elected officials to denounce last night’s terrorist attack against my fellow Asian and Asian Americans.”

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