



New England Chinese Language Teachers Association

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NECLTA Statement Against Anti-Asian Violence (March 20, 2021)

The New England Chinese Language Teachers Association (NECLTA) is a professional organization of Chinese language and culture educators. As a group of professionals dedicated to cross-cultural empathy, we are deeply saddened and concerned over the increasing reports of violence against members of Asian American communities in the United States over the past year. This week's most recent shootings in Atlanta are part of a larger escalation in this type of racial violence. The racial harassment and hate crimes against Asian Americans that have been reported, as well as those that have gone unreported, are grim reminders of the history of discrimination that Asian American communities have endured throughout the history of this country.

The perpetrators of the Atlanta shooting and other Asian hate crimes are not the only responsible parties. They are influenced by filtered, biased and manipulated discourse from people with a political agenda, from people who are incapable of looking at the world from other perspectives, and from people who choose to eliminate differences instead of embracing them. In a time like this, our work is more significant than ever. As language instructors, we teach our students how to listen to others, how to express themselves, how to deal with frustration when being misunderstood, and how to respect people who might disagree with them. What we are doing every day might seem trivial and mundane, yet our work is indeed essential to make this world a better one.

The NECLTA stands in solidarity with other communities against all forms of discrimination and violence, including racial hatred and xenophobia. We are here to support our teachers in navigating this difficult time as individuals and as educators. We would like to encourage all our members, supporters, and friends to raise awareness in your communities of the intensification of anti-Asian and anti-AAPI hate crimes, and actively support your Asian and AAPI colleagues and students.