

**For Immediate Release**

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**NFALA Condemns Recent Violence in AAPI Communities, Mourns for the Victims and Their Families, and Calls For Making Safer Communities**

WASHINGTON, DC – NFALA strongly condemns the recent spate of violence among Asian American Pacific Island (AAPI) communities. We grieve with the Asian American community that incurs further trauma from this ongoing series of violence, and with the many victims and their families who have suffered. We call on action to be taken by Federal, state, and municipal leaders to ensure that the health and safety of the AAPI community be an integral part of their efforts.

On December 3, 2022, a 35-year-old Asian man was walking in Brooklyn, New York when a stranger attacked him while making derogatory anti-Asian statements and threatening to kill him.

On January 11, 2023, an 18-year-old Indiana University student was stabbed multiple times in the head while riding a local bus in Bloomington, Indiana. The suspect told police she stabbed the victim because the victim was "Chinese," adding that it "would be one less person to blow up our country."

Unfortunately, these tragedies are not isolated incidents, but rather, they are a continuation of anti-Asian violence, harassment, and discrimination that the AAPI community has been battling since at least the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which [NFALA already condemned in April of 2021](https://nfala.com/resources/Documents/Advocacy/Organizational%20Statements%20-%202021/NFALA%20Statement%20Against%20Anti-Asian%20Hate.pdf) (see <https://nfala.com/resources/Documents/Advocacy/Organizational%20Statements%20-%202021/NFALA%20Statement%20Against%20Anti-Asian%20Hate.pdf>).

NFALA calls upon all law enforcement authorities to immediately redouble their efforts towards combating anti-Asian hate with specific, informed, and practicable measures. We encourage all people to report all instances of anti-Asian hate to their local authorities and the Stop AAPI Hate initiative (<https://stopaapihate.org/>).

It is within this backdrop of over three years of an onslaught of anti-Asian hate and violence that our communities now face two horrific tragedies that have led to multiple deaths and injuries.

On the eve of Lunar New Year on January 21, 2023, during a time of celebration, a shooter opened fire in a Monterey Park dance studio in Los Angeles, California. As a result, 20 individuals were shot, and 11 were killed, including 68-year old Filipino American, [Valentino Marcos Alvero](https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2023/01/24/valentino-alvero-was-the-life-of-any-party/) (see <https://www.pasadenastarnews.com/2023/01/24/valentino-alvero-was-the-life-of-any-party/>). While still reeling from the Monterey mass shooting, our community was faced with another tragedy when seven people were killed and an eight person injured in a mass shooting at two farms in Half Moon Bay, California. These shootings claimed the lives of both AAPI and Latinx community members.

"Our communities need time to grieve and heal. We need a future where these tragedies are not normalized and genuine action is taken to prevent this from ever happening again," said Gage Javier, President of NFALA. "We must take bold action to ensure the health and safety of our AAPI communities across the country.

If you are interested in supporting the victims and their families, Stop AAPI Hate has a robust [resource page](https://stopaapihate.org/lunar-new-year-shooting-resources/) (<https://stopaapihate.org/lunar-new-year-shooting-resources/>) for those in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay, and across the country.

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*NFALA is the national voice for the Filipino American legal profession. It advocates for justice, civil rights, and equal opportunity for the Filipino American community. It cultivates high standards of integrity and professionalism among its members and strives for the advancement and success of Filipino Americans within the profession. NFALA is a family, comprised of members throughout the United States, with the shared goal of increasing its national growth, impact, and visibility while also celebrating its members' cultural heritage.*

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