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Statement of the Maryland Commission for Women Solidarity with Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

The Maryland Commission for Women opposes race- and gender-based discrimination, oppression, intimidation, harassment, and violence, in any form. Racist violence toward Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the country has increased dramatically since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is alarming, deeply saddening and must end.

The murders in Georgia this week of eight individuals, seven of them women and six of them Asian-American women, are more than abhorrent, more than just sexism or racism. No matter how these murders are described or defined, there is no doubt that the violent ideations that led to this atrocity were fed by the intersectionality of racism and misogyny.

The Commission for Women stands in solidarity with all women of every race and ethnicity, and with all who oppose racism and sexism. We stand in solidarity today with our Asian-American and Pacific Islander sisters and brothers. While our hearts break for the families, friends and colleagues of the victims of this horrendous crime, our determination to work against racism and sexism in all their forms is made stronger than ever. The Commission for Women urges all those who experience or witness such hatred, discrimination and violence to stand up and speak up.