



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
1929-1968

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

TASK FORCE, INC.

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Press Release:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc.

Condemns the Hate Crimes and Deadly Violence against Asian Americans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 24, 2021-----

----- The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, MI extends our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those who were slain in a hate-crime on March 16, 2021 near Atlanta, Georgia.

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, the first South Asian person to hold the office, delivered a message to the Asian American community Wednesday, March 17, 2021 after a shooting Tuesday night left six-Asian women and two others dead. “But

knowing the increasing level of hate crimes against our Asian American brothers and sisters, we also want to speak out in solidarity with them and acknowledge that none of us should ever be silent in the face of any form of hate.”

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force, Inc. is an all-volunteer grassroots civic organization. Its mission and purpose is to celebrate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to accept the challenges to work to make real the promise of America as a land of freedom, equality, opportunity, and brotherhood, and to commit to plan observances to remind us of his philosophy of non-violent actions for creating positive social change.

We are a civic and advocacy organization guided by the works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to facilitate social change, the education of our youth and to promote justice.

Tracey Payne -Tellis, President of the Martin Luther King Task Force, MI stated that the organization stands up against hatred of Asians and will continue to speak out on all discrimination and hate crimes and urges President Biden to establish a Task Force to combat Anti-Asian Violence.

The FBI defines a hate crime as one with an added element of bias against a person's race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. The agency says: "Hate itself is not a crime - and the FBI is mindful of protecting freedom of speech and other civil liberties."

The Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University found that Anti-Asian hate crimes reported to police in America’s largest cities jumped

nearly 159% in 2020. The Center director Brian Levin said the Center tracked a rise in anti-Asians violence after former President Donald Trump started calling COVID-19 the “China Virus.”

Barbara Talley, Founder of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force agrees with U. S. Senator Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) who stated: “We’ve got to do everything we can in terms of addressing bigotry and hate in our country and violence...”

Twenty-five percent of respondents to a new USA Today/Ipsos poll said they had witnessed someone blaming Asian people for the COVID-19 pandemic during the previous month. The poll of 1,195 adults was conducted March 18 to March 19, days after the shooting deaths of eight people at three Atlanta-area spas, six of whom were women of Asian descent.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated: “We must never adjust ourselves to racial discrimination and racial segregation.” The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task Force stands in unity with the Black Lives Matter and Asian Lives Matter and will continue to take action to fight racism.

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