

Statement from UP's CEO on Anti-Asian Attack in Georgia on March 16, 2021

Dear members of the UP community,

It pains me to reach out to you for each of these horrific events that are happening in our country, but I find that acknowledging it, discussing it and continuing to shed light on injustice is at the core of our work. Last night, eight lives were lost to senseless and tragic violence. Six of the victims were Asian. This is the result of a harrowing trend in this country perpetuating violence, discrimination and harassment against Asian Americans being fueled by outright lies and prejudice.

At UP, our vision for our scholars and schools is grounded in equitable outcomes for all. We strive to create communities that are a safe space for every single student, to be their true authentic selves, to cultivate their sharp minds, share their kind hearts and pursue their path and potential. We will never waver in this commitment. And we will be resolute to speak out against injustice.

Our team is dedicated to educating and empowering the next generation of leaders, and we must make it abundantly clear that hatred, violence and racism have no place in our community, or in society as a whole. We will stand firm alongside our Asian brothers and sisters that we will not tolerate such acts.

I'd also like to share [this excellent resource](#) from PearDeck on the rise of Anti-Asian discrimination made for older students. Thanks to Emily Whitcomb at UAH for finding and sharing this resource.

To all of our students, staff and families, and especially to Asian members of our community, please know that you are cared for, loved and supported.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Conforme'.

Veronica Conforme, CEO