

# AACM Asian American Awareness Booklet

On March 16th, 8 people—6 of which were Asian women—were killed at three different spas in Atlanta. From the Chinese Exclusion Act to the creation of the model minority myth, America's history of sinophobia has long been suppressed by society. The continual attacks against our communities have revealed that racism against Asian Americans is very real, as is the hurt that we have experienced.

As Asian American Campus Ministries, we seek to care about justice in the way God calls us to. We hope that this can be a space to process your feelings and foster discussion.

*What is the purpose of this packet?*

- **Discuss:** how do you feel about what's been happening?
- **Pray:** lift each other up and each other's emotions. Pray for the AA community

*What is Justice and why should we care about it?*

- Intro to Justice and the Bible (Bible Project) <https://youtu.be/A14THPoc4-4>
- <https://ism.intervarsity.org/bible-study/book-luke-bible-study-1-what-justice>

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# 1. What is Justice?

## Introductory Questions

1. Define Justice/injustice: \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does injustice look like in America?
3. What has your response been to injustice?

## Reading the Text

Luke 4:18-19

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

## Discussion Questions

4. What is God's invitation to you about justice?
5. What stood out/felt significant in this passage?
6. What do you understand now about justice and how God cares about it?

Luke Bible Study Series Eva Liu Glick © 2009 InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA

## How have Asian Americans experienced injustice?

- Brief Timeline of our history (until 2019):  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ApT2QpFypTV16PbfGPPHKvzIft0A3UWJ4XkYYN8FIFO/edit>
- History of racism towards Asian Americans in the US:  
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/the-long-history-of-racism-against-asian-americans-in-the-u-s>

1882: Chinese Exclusion Act: Banned US citizenship and immigration from China

1922: Naturalization is only allowed for "White persons and aliens of African nativity"

1942: Japanese Americans forced into internment camps

1982: Vincent Chin killed in hate crime in Detroit

2021: Mass shooting in three massage parlors/spas in Atlanta, 6 Asian American women killed

For a more complete and detailed timeline:

<https://advancingjustice-la.org/sites/default/files/UCRS%20Timeline%20r2.pdf>

Discuss:

- What would restoration of Asian American injustice look like?

## 2. Hypersexualization of Asian Women

Define:

Hypersexualization of Asian women- the idea that asian women are "exotic sex objects"- has been present for generations. Negative stereotypes of Asian women developed such as Chinese women being accused of spreading STDs in the mid-19th century. The Page Act of 1875 prohibited the entry of Chinese women and unfree laborers that were "undesirable" and brought for "immoral purposes." Even to this day, Asian women experience sexualizing comments and jokes made to their faces, assumptions of them as sex objects, and targeted attacks, like the shootings that occurred in Atlanta, Georgia.

<https://www.history.com/news/chinese-immigration-page-act-women>

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/asian-women-shootings-point-relentless-racist-tropes-76577718>

Discuss:

- Where have you witnessed forms of hypersexualization of Asian American women?
- How does today's media portray Asian American women and how does that contribute to hypersexualization?
- How does race and gender intersect when looking at the stereotypes that Asian American women face? Does one contribute more than the other?
- What are ways that our generation can work towards decreasing these stereotypes and bettering the treatment of our female asian american community?

### 3. The Model Minority Myth

Define:

- Model minority myth: idea that one minority (Asians) are superior to other minorities but not at the level of whites

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/model-minority-myth-says-asians-are-successful-dangerous-rcna420> <https://time.com/5859206/anti-asian-racism-america/>

Discuss:

- Has the model minority myth impacted your life? How?
- The model minority myth places Asians in a strange position, being more widely accepted than other minorities while still being “othered” by the majority white population. How does this affect dealing with AAPI hate crimes? Is it easier, harder?
- How does President Biden appointing an AAPI White House official affect the perception of the Asian American community? What did you think of one of his officials previously saying “VP Kamala Harris is enough Asian American representation?”

### 4. Sinophobia and Yellow Peril

Define:

- Sinophobia: sentiments such as hatred or fear of China (and related countries), its people, its diaspora, or its culture.
- Yellow peril: a danger to Western civilization held to arise from expansion of the power and influence of eastern Asian peoples

Discuss:

- Asian people are often stereotyped as docile and weak in Western cultures; on the other hand, there are also sentiments of sinophobia and yellow peril,

especially in today's sociopolitical climate. Have these contradictory views of Asians affected your life in any way?

- Sinophobia and the yellow peril have existed for centuries and have been used as political agendas. How do you see these old ideas being recycled and fed to us in our everyday lives today?
- Other minorities are also often portrayed as "dangerous" in America-- African-Americans, Muslims, the Latinx community, et cetera. How are those groups seen as dangerous, and what can we do as a community to provide our support for those groups, as well as our own?
- These negative sentiments are often the result of unfamiliarity and ignorance. What are some things that we can do, as Asian-Americans, to spread awareness of our cultures and who we are as people?

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/atlanta-shooting-political-rhetoric-violence/2021/03/19/f882f8e8-88b9-11eb-8a8b-5cf82c3dffe4\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/atlanta-shooting-political-rhetoric-violence/2021/03/19/f882f8e8-88b9-11eb-8a8b-5cf82c3dffe4_story.html)

## 5. The "Bamboo Ceiling"

Define:

The summation of barriers faced by Asian Americans in attaining leadership positions. Often subjective factors like "poor communication skills" or "low leadership potential" are quoted as the reasons Asian Americans are unable to reach these executive positions (see Wikipedia).

<https://www.npr.org/2014/05/23/315129852/does-a-bamboo-ceiling-shut-asian-americans-out-of-top-jobs>

Discuss:

- Have you encountered this "Bamboo Ceiling" in your endeavors or know someone who has? What kind of situation was it?

- Although Asian American's make up a large percentage of the white-collared workforce and are well-represented at higher education, the percentage of Asian Americans at the senior level/ in executive positions is well lower. Why do you think this is the case? What do you think about people claiming Asian Americans having "poor communication skills" or "low leadership potential"?
- In what areas have you seen the "bamboo ceiling" being shattered? What areas do you want to see Asian Americans breakthrough in?
- How do we raise societal awareness of this idea of the "bamboo ceiling"?

<https://www.today.com/tmrw/what-bamboo-ceiling-here-s-what-asian-americans-want-you-t212014>

<https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/2021-oscars-diversity-asian-actors-finally-break-through>

