

To the MUSC family,

In the wake of mass killings and the overall rise in hate crimes and violence against those of Asian descent across the nation, I'm reaching out today to ask that every MUSC family member offer their support, understanding and compassion for all those in mourning and affected in some way by these events.

The details may vary from region to region, but one fact remains the same when individuals are seemingly targeted because of their race, their gender, what they believe, who they love or what they do for a living: we have a responsibility to reflect on what we are doing as individuals, as an organization and as a larger society to prevent and stop these senseless and brutal acts of violence.

Whether violence rooted in hate occurs near or far, these events represent an urgent call to action for each of us. We must [educate ourselves](#) and examine our own biases, and then we must engage in our communities in ways that are constructive, respectful and inclusive of others. The MUSC family remains committed to sustaining and supporting a community where everyone feels welcome, valued and safe.

Thank you for your compassion and support for anyone in our network who may be suffering during this period. Our institutional resilience, determination and commitment to shared values will continue to serve as sturdy foundations for the life-affirming work we continue to perform together.

We must never forget that the MUSC family shares community with many members who live in dread that the color of their skin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and religion make them targets of hate and worse. We must support each other as we move forward.

Should you need them, please don't hesitate to reach out and use the many resources available to you, including [CAPS \(Counseling and Psychiatric Services\)](#), [MUSC Public Safety](#), [Office of Gender and Equity](#), [Department of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#), [BSIT \(Behavioral Support Intervention Team\)](#), [University Human Resources](#), [MUSC Health Employee Relations](#), [Student Affairs](#) in our respective colleges, [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#), [Pastoral Care](#), and the [National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center](#).

MUSC remains committed to our values of respect, compassion, collaboration, integrity and innovation. Our institution has not and will not change who we are – a diverse, caring family of professionals who seek fairness, equity and inclusion for ourselves and all those we serve.

Sincerely,

Willette Burnham-Williams, Ph.D.
MUSC Chief Equity Officer