



## **STATEMENT OF ADVOCACY: GATESOL Condemns Discrimination and Acts of Violence Against the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community**

### **WE ASK:**

GATESOL stands in solidarity with the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, and we urge Georgia's K-12, higher education, and adult learning campuses to act to provide safe and supportive environments for AAPI staff and students.

### **WE BELIEVE:**

- [COVID-19 has unmasked the racism](#) present in our communities and in our schools.
- "...We had the most powerful leader in our country assigning blame [for the pandemic] to China, and therefore Asians living in America had a target on our backs. And so, you know, this feeling of fear has been pervasive in the community for at least this past year." -Bee Nguyen, State Representative for Georgia House District 89
- [Students in our AAPI communities are hearing this dangerous discourse](#), and they feel threatened and intimidated.
- Many AAPI families are fearful of sending their children to school, and AAPI college/university students have been apprehensive to attend on campus lectures and events.
- [The AAPI community has reached a crisis point](#) that cannot be ignored.

### **WE ACKNOWLEDGE:**

- Attacks on AAPI communities [are on the rise](#).
- While [a vast majority of crimes](#) against AAPI communities go unreported, [the Stop AAPI Hate National Report](#) documents almost 3,800 reported instances of discrimination and attacks in the U.S. last year. Because many instances go unreported, the actual number of attacks is estimated to be much higher.
- [Racism surrounding COVID-19](#) is in our communities, and it is present in our schools.

*GATESOL values the multicultural and multilingual community made up of our Georgia students, teachers, and TESOL professionals. Acts of discrimination and violence against those communities cannot be tolerated. We stand with TESOL International in condemning acts of violence and discrimination against AAPI communities.*