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May 3, 2021

A Statement of Solidarity: Standing Against Anti-Asian Racism, Violence and Hate

We, the Black members of the University Council of Queen's University at Kingston, come together with the full support of our colleagues on Council to speak with one voice on the issue of racism, violence and racial hatred directed at the Asian communities of North America.

As members of a group that has been the target of similar treatment both historically and in the present, we will not stand idly by while others suffer the negative impacts of racial bigotry. We state unambiguously that there is no place for anti-Asian racism anywhere in our society. We stand shoulder to shoulder with Asians in our community and everywhere in calling out these attacks as racist and we condemn these acts in unequivocal terms.

The Asian community is not alone in this struggle. A racist attack on one community of colour is an attack on us all.

We strongly encourage individuals with decision-making authority and organizations in the public, private, and third sectors to take immediate proactive measures to counteract anti-Asian racism, violence and hate within their spheres of influence and responsibility. In particular, we support Queen's University in the actions it has undertaken to ensure the safety, security, and health of its Asian faculty, staff, and students. We encourage leaders throughout the Queen's community to continue to prioritize these efforts and others as part of our ongoing commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigenization on campus and beyond.

When communities of colour are subjected to emotional, psychological and physical duress, remaining silent is not an option. We speak today with the hope that others will join with us to resist racism whenever it rears its ugly head – no matter which group is facing its wrath.

In fellowship,

Abdul-Aziz Garuba Anita Jack-Davies Greg Frankson Judith Brown Kasmet Niyongabo Kofi Adow Nosa Egiebor Opiyo Oloya Precious Nyarko-Antwi Richard Baugh Tka Pinnock Yanique Williams