



## **Statement from Carrie Wall, President/CEO, YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee on Violence Against Asian Pacific Islanders (AAPI)**

Anti-Asian sentiment has deep roots in our country, dating back centuries, Stop AAPI Hate has documented more than 3,000 counts of anti-Asian hate crimes since March 2020 including this tragic event in Atlanta. Our hearts go out to the families and victims, six of whom were of Asian descent and seven were women. Sadly, this a direct result of the racism and misogyny being fueled by misinformation since the COVID-19 pandemic reached the United States. As a leading national nonprofit with global reach, it is our responsibility to denounce these targeted acts of racism on the AAPI community and on all our communities impacted by white supremacist violence. It is also our responsibility to be historically literate in all forms of oppression. Anti-Asian racism has a long, painful history in the U.S., from the Chinese Exclusion Act to the Arizona internment camps. Our understanding of this past is critical to inform our actions to fight back against these cycles of oppression continuing. The Y has an inclusive mission and a commitment to becoming an anti-racist, multicultural organization, the Y condemns this violence in the strongest possible terms. We stand with all Asian Pacific Islanders and especially those who are part of the Y family. Our country and our organization are better because of their spirit, strength, and unique contributions to American society.