



United Neighborhood Houses Statement on Violence Against the Asian American Community

NEW YORK – March 18, 2021 – In response to the attacks on Asian Americans in Atlanta and the rise in violence against Asian Americans across the country, UNH Executive Director Susan Stamler stated:

Over the past year, there has been a marked increase in hate crimes against Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. This shift has not happened in a vacuum; violent and hateful rhetoric targeting AAPI communities was coming from the very highest levels of our government, fueling these attacks and emboldening the white supremacists that perpetrate them. On Tuesday in Atlanta, eight women were murdered by a white gunman, six of whom were AAPI. United Neighborhood Houses extends our deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones in this attack, and to the AAPI communities across this country that grieve with them.

Words can be powerful, so to that end, we speak out. But words are not enough. Each and every one of us—community members, local leaders, and government partners—must go beyond releasing statements condemning this hate. We must stop to listen to AAPI community members when they tell us what they need in this painful time, and together we must leverage our collective power, tools, and resources to rebuild. We must acknowledge that this type of violence is not new, and for too long we have failed to listen and speak out when they have turned to us for help.

Today we recommit ourselves: We will denounce violence, call out hate speech, and demand policy changes that will restore justice and ensure safety for all New York’s AAPI communities. To our Asian American neighbors, United Neighborhood Houses and our settlement house members stand united with you to address xenophobia, dismantle white supremacy, and to work together towards building racial equity, justice and inclusion in all communities.

About United Neighborhood Houses

United Neighborhood Houses (UNH) is a policy and social change organization representing 44 neighborhood settlement houses that reach 765,000 New Yorkers from all walks of life. A progressive leader for more than 100 years, UNH is stewarding a new era for New York’s settlement house movement. We mobilize our members and their communities to advocate for good public policies and promote strong organizations and practices that keep neighborhoods resilient and thriving for all New Yorkers. UNH leads advocacy and partners with our members on a broad range of issues including civic and community engagement, neighborhood affordability, healthy aging, early childhood education, adult literacy, and youth development. We also provide customized professional development and peer learning to build the skills and leadership capabilities of settlement house staff at all levels. For more information, visit <http://www.unhny.org/>.

###