



Stony Brook School of Social Welfare

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Dear SSW community,

The School of Social Welfare is deeply concerned regarding Xenophobia aimed at some of our Asian students over the COVID-19 virus. We have zero tolerance for any type of racist incidents and threats of hate crimes against any person in our school. We stand in heartfelt solidarity with all of our students, friends and colleagues during these troubling times.

Xenophobic responses to threats of epidemics and viral infectious diseases have a long and unfortunate history in the United States ([White, 2020](#)). As a center of social work education and research, we view it as our responsibility to take proactive steps to maintain vigilance and to educate the public — both on campus and off — of the elevated threat of xenophobia, discrimination, and all forms of “otherism” that can occur in times of crisis.

The SSW Community pledges to help ensure that everyone in our community feels safe and supported. Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee is working within the SSW to identify, track and address all issues of discrimination. The Committee is further planning to provide forums for continued conversation and education on these issues into the fall semester.

SSW takes pride in its diversity and inclusiveness and has zero tolerance for discrimination. We are committed to upholding the values of equity, human dignity, inclusiveness, diversity, equality, and social justice.

It is important that we extend kindness, support and sensitivity to those who feel threatened and/or have experienced hateful incidents. We encourage our community to go beyond vigilance and to proactively call out discrimination when we when see it.

Below are recommendations for those who are concerned and/or are being affected by the stressors and upheaval that we are experiencing:

1. Remain calm and adequately informed. Consult with your trusted school administrators, faculty, and staff for advice if you are uncertain about making a decision or taking an action.
2. Be prepared. Make a safety plan, including a list of agencies and people to contact during emergency, supplies you need for your health and safety, and protocols you should follow.

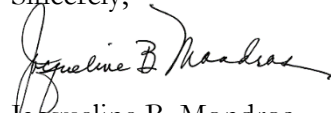
3. Form a mutual aid group. You and your friends or neighbors may form a group that helps each other's needs and check each other's safety.

4. Stay connected. Social distancing does not imply that we should not contact each other. In contrast, we may need to do more, virtually, to support each other, share information, and collaborate on joint actions. Being connected can be vital and beneficial.

If you have questions or concerns, please be in touch with Professor Marvin Colson: Marvin.Colson@stonybrook.edu or Professor Anna Hayward: Anna.Hayward@stonybrook.edu

Stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline B. Mondros

Dean & Assistant Vice President, social Determinants of Health

