



This official statement was composed by the Executive Director of Argent Combat on Friday, 19 March 2021.

Hello, Argent Combatants-

It is again, with profound sadness, that we must officially hold space to honor lives taken for no reason outside of profound ignorance and hatred. We stand in sorrow and solidarity with Asian, Pacific Islander, and Asian-American communities, who are facing an escalating series of racist attacks, including this last week's horrific attacks in Georgia and Colorado, in which anti-Asian racism compounded with misogyny resulted in a series of horrifying and tragic murders. Our hearts are devastated for the victims' dear ones and for our colleagues and students who live with this fear every day.

Anti-Asian racism has been a recurring theme in United States history. Recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the harmful and ignorant rhetoric of our previous presidential administration, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Asian-American loved ones across the country have been targeted by people who are motivated by white supremacist beliefs and encouraged by right-wing politicians and media figures to blame people of Asian descent for the virus. These attacks are aimed at our friends, our family, our neighbors, our loved ones, our colleagues, and our students. We join our beloved ones in this devastating grief and graciously hold space so that our loved ones can not only be heard, understood, and accepted but so that their voices can be justly amplified to drown out the pathetic mewling of fragile bigots who have worked for years to mute them.

We condemn these attacks, we damn to Hell the politicians and talking heads who stoked this fire of ignorance, and we will never forgive yet forever forsake these pathetic and disgusting assailants and like-minded individuals. As we mourn those who were lost, we also affirm our commitment to becoming a deeply anti-racist organization and working toward a radically hospitable and loudly just society.

You inspire us every day and are so profoundly loved. Our space is wide and inclusive, but bigots have no place in our venues, in our discipline, nor in our hearts. Bigots do, however, have a special place on our personal Black List; we do report their rhetoric and accounts of their actions to our parent organizations, sibling organizations, SAG-AFTRA, employers, colleagues, alma maters, representative agencies, and the Actors' Equity Association.

We again reiterate that you are not a “warrior” if your mission is to harm marginalized people and/or their inexorable rights as American citizens and artists: You are a sniveling, entitled, pathetic coward if you support the terroristic attack on democracy that our nation witnessed. You are a liability and a physical manifestation of the very most obnoxious, harmful, and pathetic philosophies our organization seeks to combat daily.

Argent Combat is committed to the policy that all students shall have equal access to programs without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation, except in those cases where specific physical limitations prohibit participation in performing the required skills in a manner safe to themselves or to their participants. No student shall be afforded unfair advantages or privileges. Argent Combat and its students will conduct themselves in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice.

We respect all students’ legal and personal rights, personal freedom, and privacy, and will preserve students’ anonymity if discussing aspects of their work with others and will not disclose confidential information without consent from the student unless required by law. Please note that law requires that we report terroristic threats, treason, and the attempts and contemplations thereof under Art.III.S3.C1.1.2 of the Constitution. We will uphold that duty, and gladly, if it means that our beloved student base, colleagues, and affiliated organizations can confidently continue to exercise their inexorable rights to have their voices heard, to keep all students and audiences from harm, and to highlight the aspects of humanity that uplift us all as opposed to hinder us as a nation and artistic community through the pathetic and narrow lens of bigotry.

All concerns and questions can be addressed to brittany@argentcombat.com.



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