



A Movement of the  
National YWCA

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## YWCA NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA TO HOST RALLY AT LAFAYETTE PARK CHALLENGING DISTRICT RESIDENTS/LEADERS TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST RACISM

*Local Effort is Part of National YWCA Program Involving More than 250,000 Individuals from Organizations and Local Charters for a Day to Stand Up Against Racism – Friday, April 30*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The YWCA National Capital Area (YWCA NCA) is calling on area residents, business leaders and community activists to participate in a rally to Stand Against Racism, beginning at 8:30am on the morning of Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Lafayette Park (Directly across from the White House).

Invited speakers and participants (to date) include:

- **The Honorable Vincent Gray**, D.C. Council Chairman;
- **The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton**, Congresswoman for the District of Columbia;
- **Hilary O. Shelton**, Director of the NAACP's Washington Bureau and Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy;
- **Paula Young Shelton**, Civil Rights Activist, Teacher and Author;
- **Dr. Sharon Harley**, Chair of African American Studies at University of Maryland; and
- **Rodrigo Leiva**, Executive Director of The Latino Federation of Greater Washington.

Additionally, Members of the D.C. Council, City Year D.C. corps members as well as various organizations in the Washington D.C. area have partnered with the YWCA in a show of unity and bold demonstration that delivers one singular clear message – **racism will no longer be ignored or tolerated.**

“We are witness to the fact that racism continues to divide our community and keeps individuals from achieving success in education, economics, employment and quality of life,” said Tamara Smith, CEO of the YWCA NCA. “We not only intend to raise awareness of the issues of racism, we intend to affect real change in the lives of our family, friends and co-workers through a process that identifies and eradicates the barriers that divide us and that perpetuate racism and other forms of oppression.”

Individuals in the Washington Metropolitan area will be taking a Stand Against Racism simultaneously with others throughout the country. The Stand Against Racism movement is a collaboration of 71 YWCA Associations nationwide and their 2,000 community partners. More than 250,000 people are expected to take a Stand Against Racism.

Participants will commit themselves to a lifetime of promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people in their community and in the world. This powerful, unified, effort will help raise awareness that racism hurts everyone. Participants of the YWCA's Stand Against Racism range from school-age children to elected officials; from executives of large corporations to church leaders; and many others. Racism affects everyone.

"If you believe in a society free of racism and discrimination, join us," said Smith. "Together, we *can* eliminate racism."

For more details about the YWCA's Stand Against Racism Rally individuals are encouraged to visit the YWCA NCA's website at [www.ywcanca.org](http://www.ywcanca.org).

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### **About the YWCA National Capital Area**

The YWCA National Capital Area (YWCA NCA) is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. The YWCA NCA is part of the YWCAs in America, which have a rich history of advocating for racial justice. Throughout its history, the YWCA has been at the forefront of major movements in the United States and has served as a pioneer in race relations, labor union representation, and the empowerment of women. **For more information on the YWCA NCA, please visit [www.ywcanca.org](http://www.ywcanca.org).**

### **About Stand Against Racism**

Stand Against Racism is a movement of the YWCA with the goal of bringing people together from all walks of life – and across the country - to raise awareness that racism still exists. The methodology of the Stand Against Racism is to bring together like-minded organizations that share the vision of eliminating racism and celebrating the richness of diversity. The Stand Against Racism is an annual event and is a collaboration of 71 YWCA Associations nationwide, managed by the YWCAs Trenton and Princeton in New Jersey. More information is available via our Web site: [www.StandAgainstRacism.org](http://www.StandAgainstRacism.org).