

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**YWCA of Yonkers, 87 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701**

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**YONKERS, New York - April 12, 2010**

### ***YWCA Yonkers Takes a “Stand Against Racism” on April 30 Over 250,000 individuals across the country expected to take a stand***

**Yonkers, New York** – YWCA Yonkers is calling on all community organizations and individuals to join us in taking a Stand Against Racism by participating in one of the many events open to the public in Yonkers. In an effort to unite our communities in a bold demonstration that delivers a clear message that racism cannot be ignored or tolerated, many organizations have already partnered with the YWCA as participating sites of the event. Each participating site will host their ‘Stand’ at their location. Unless indicated otherwise, there is no cost for participation in the activities hosted by YWCA.

- **Youth Talent Show & After Party: Saturday, April 17, 2010** , 5-11PM , YWCA, \$5 - No Room For Hate
- **Interfaith Service: Saturday, April 24, 2010**, 10AM – 11AM (breakfast at 9AM), at YWCA. Join in a service designed not only to bring together community residents as to reaffirm their faith and appreciation of unique racial and ethnic diversity but also to demonstrate the beauty that lies within us all.
- **“Yonkers’ Leaders Embrace Diversity” Training: Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, 1PM-3PM at Yonkers Riverfront Library. Registration required by April 23, 2010. Space is limited. *Lunch will be provided.*
- **Community Rally: Friday, April 30, 2010** from 4PM-5:30PM at St. John’s Church, Getty Square. Celebrate diversity with the Ed Patillo Band (3PM), Speakers of the House, PEARL steppers, and Guest Speaker Stephen **López**, Deacon, Calvary Center Church, Yonkers, Vice President, Untermeyer Performing Arts Council and Chairman Emeritus, Yonkers Martin Luther King Commission for Nonviolence. Refreshments will be served.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, “since 2000, the number of hate groups has increased by 54 percent. This surge has been fueled by fears of Latino immigration and, more recently, by the election of the country’s first African-American president and the economic crisis.” In New York, seven teenagers (four of whom have pleaded guilty to gang assault and hate crime charges) are currently on trial for the November 2008 killing of an Ecuadorian. Prosecutors say the killing was the culmination of an ongoing campaign of violence by

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the teens against Hispanics. Also in New York just this week, in what may be filed as a hate crime charge, “a 16 year old white schoolboy with a rifle chased a black classmate into a police station and shot him, then himself”.

The persistence and pervasiveness of racism divides our community and keeps individuals from achieving success in education, economics, employment, and quality of life and we must take the necessary steps to curb the wave of violence especially amongst our youth” stated Yejide Okunribido, ED of YWCA Yonkers. “Our strength comes from numbers – that’s why we are asking people to come out and join the other organizations that have partnered with us!” Elimination of racism can only be achieved through a unified effort of all community stakeholders.

Individuals in Yonkers will be taking a Stand Against Racism simultaneously with others throughout the country. Over 250,000 people nationwide are expected to take a Stand Against Racism with participants committing themselves to a lifetime of promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people in their community and in the world. 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.

As an organization dedicated to the elimination of racism, YWCA Yonkers will through this event increase awareness and address the continuing need for education on race relations and tolerance. “If you believe in a society free of racism and discrimination, join us,” said Monique Boone, YWCA Yonkers’ Board President. “Together, we *can* eliminate racism.”

For more details, individuals are encouraged to visit [www.StandAgainstRacism.org](http://www.StandAgainstRacism.org). For local information, please contact Yejide Okunribido at (914) 963-0640 ext. 110.

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### Background:

YWCA in America have a rich history of advocating for racial justice. Throughout our history, YWCA has been in the forefront of most major movements in the United States and is a pioneer in race relations, labor union representation, and the empowerment of women. Today, we not only intend to raise awareness of the issues of racism, we intend to affect real change in the lives of our families, 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. The Stand Against Racism is an annual event. In 2010, it is a collaboration of 71 YWCA Associations nationwide, managed by the YWCAs Trenton and Princeton in New Jersey. More information available via our Web site: [www.StandAgainstRacism.org](http://www.StandAgainstRacism.org).