

2017 Public Policy Priorities

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

YWCA Hartford Region is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace justice, freedom and dignity for all.

*We cannot allow our leaders to further institutionalize racism through public policy
Access to healthcare is imperative to women's empowerment
We must provide for equal access to quality education and workforce development to achieve economic security for all of our citizens*

These are the key issues where YWCA will be advocating for legislative action in order to move women and their families forward:

(1) RACIAL JUSTICE & CIVIL RIGHTS:

- Racial profiling & Criminalization of People of Color: End discriminatory policing practices by making police departments more transparent, accessible, and accountable through independent police oversight and reformed body and Taser camera regulations.
- Educational opportunity: Promote equity and address town-level educational inequities, racial inequalities, and unequal spending.

(2) EMPOWERMENT AND ECONOMIC SECURITY:

- Paid Family & Medical Leave: Create and implement an affordable, accessible, and adequate statewide system of paid family and medical leave to allow employees to care for themselves and their loved ones.
- Early Childhood and Childcare: Ensure access to safe, affordable care in a licensed setting through Care4Kids to keep families working and children out of poverty. Create funding parity among subsidized early childhood education programs. Maintain adequate funding for early childhood programs.
- Pay equity: Eliminate sex and race discrimination in the workplace through equal pay for equal work and anti-discrimination legislation.

(3) WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY:

- Gender-based violence: Broaden Connecticut's definition of stalking to reflect national best practices that improve the ability of law enforcement to protect victims of violence from stalking. Lengthen the statutes of limitation in all criminal and civil sexual assault cases.
- Healthcare: Ensure access to comprehensive healthcare including reproductive health service providers so they remain strong and viable to support personal autonomy over one's body.
- Human trafficking: Promote awareness of human trafficking, including sex trafficking of teens, support preventative legislation, and improve access to community resources for survivors.