



ywca usa lauds president carter's condemnation of racism aimed at obama

statement by lorraine cole, ph.d., ywca usa ceo

September 17, 2009 - Former President Jimmy Carter has condemned Representative Joe Wilson's reprehensible "You lie!" outburst during President's Obama's recent Congressional address as "based on racism." Such animosity, Carter said, is based on "the fact that [Obama] is a Black man and... the belief among many White people that African-Americans are not qualified to lead the country." Terming Wilson's comment "dastardly," Carter described it as an "aftershock of racist views that have permeated American politics for decades."

We agree. Racism is alive and still thrives in America.

Racial animosity toward Obama has become increasingly vitriolic and public since his Inauguration, especially among anti-immigrant protesters and anti-government activists who compare him to Hitler and deny his U.S. citizenship. In addition, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center, gun sales and the anti-government white supremacist militia movement are surging across the country, fueled by fears of a Black man in the White House, the changing demographics of the country and rumors of gun confiscation promoted by cable TV and radio hosts who ferment and legitimize anti-government propaganda.

It is time for each of us to search our hearts and confront racist attitudes and deeds that threaten the core of our democracy. Further, we must take action to stop their further spread and tyranny. YWCAs across America continue to be in the forefront of increasing racial understanding and promoting racial tolerance and remain committed, unequivocally, to the elimination of racism wherever it exists.

YWCA USA is a national not-for-profit membership organization that provides social services, advocacy, education and leadership development. It is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Established in the United States in 1858, the YWCA is the oldest and largest national women's organization, and celebrating its 150th anniversary. Through its nearly 300 affiliated local YWCAs and its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the YWCA serves 2.5 million women and girls each year. Globally, the YWCA USA is a member of World YWCA, which has affiliates in 103 countries that serve 25 million women and girls worldwide. Visit www.ywca.org. Contact: Nancy Loving, at 202-467-0801, cell 202-641-1845 or nloving@ywca.org.

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