

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

hartford region

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YWCA HARTFORD REGION TAKES A STAND AGAINST RACISM Call to Action to Take a Stand with YWCA

Hartford, CT- [YWCA Hartford Region](#) announced its 4th annual [Stand Against Racism](#) will be held on April, 27 2012. The “*Stand Against Racism*” is a program of YWCA aimed at raising awareness that racism still exists in our communities and that it can no longer be ignored or tolerated. YWCA Hartford Region is inviting organizations to join them in their mission to eliminate racism by becoming a participating site for the 2012 *Stand Against Racism*.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights organization located in Montgomery, Alabama, the number of hate groups operating in the United States has grown by 56% in the last eight years. There are almost 1,000 active hate groups in the United States today. Hate groups promote hate, hostility and sometimes violence. SPLC’s Intelligence Report sites “immigration fears and a failing economy” as the factors that have fueled the increase.

In response, YWCA created the *Stand Against Racism* to combat the spread of hate and to honor and celebrate the richness of diversity. In 2011, this event attracted over 30 organizations in the Hartford area that became participating sites by hosting local “stands.” More than 3,000 people committed themselves to a lifetime of promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people in their community. This powerful, unified, effort helped raised awareness that racism hurts everyone. Participants ranged from young children to corporate executives and almost everything in between.

“We are inviting groups of any size that believe in a society free of racism to join us in taking a stand and become a participating site,” announced Deborah Ullman, CEO YWCA Hartford Region.

Any organization or group of individuals can become a participating site by visiting www.StandAgainstRacism.com. A participating site will host their own *Stand Against Racism*

event at their location (which can be private or open to the public). Participation in the *Stand Against Racism* is free and becoming a participating site is simple. YWCA will provide resources to help you plan your event. Each organization's "stand" will range from gatherings at work to larger scale stands like rallies and marches. No matter what shape the "stand" takes at each participating site, all activities will echo the theme "racism is unacceptable!"

Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all**. YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford Region including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywcahartford.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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