



hartford region

For Immediate Release

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## **YWCA HARTFORD REGION AND TD BANK COLLABORATE TO END RACISM**

Hartford, CT-On Friday, April 30, participants all over Connecticut will raise their collective voices to rid our society of racism. *Stand Against Racism* is a program of YWCA aimed at raising awareness that racism still exists in our communities. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, is joining YWCA in 82 of their store locations around the state to raise awareness and spread the word that racism can no longer be tolerated.

In 2009, 32 organizations in Connecticut were part of the Stand. The event drew over 1,700 participants pledging a lifetime of promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all people in their community and in the world. This year, YWCA Hartford Region has more than 50 sites participating in the event. TD Bank has signed up an impressive 82 of their branch sites. TD Bank will be hosting special networking and awareness breakfast events at their Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, and Greenwich stores.

“We are proud of our partnership with the YWCA and our efforts to raise awareness about racism,” said Joseph Culos, senior vice president retail, TD Bank. “We feel it is our responsibility to help create safe and comfortable communities for our customers and employees, and look forward to joining the YWCA and the community at large in taking a stand against racism. We invite everyone to stop by one of our 82 stores on Friday, April 30, and make their pledge to promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.”

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a civil rights organization located in Montgomery, Alabama, the number of hate groups operating in the United States has grown by 54% in the last eight years (there are close to 1,000 active hate groups in the United States today). SPLC's Intelligence Report cites “immigration fears, a failing economy and the successful campaign of President Obama” as the factors that have fueled the increase. Hate groups have beliefs or practices

that attack or malign an entire class of people. They promote hate, hostility, and sometimes violence.

“Racism is not simply about the attitudes, beliefs, perceptions, dislikes, or acts of discrimination. Instead, racism is about society’s injustices and discrimination that affects every aspect of our lives, education, housing, healthcare, jobs, and economic advancement” said Deborah Ullman, CEO YWCA Hartford Region.

Join YWCA Hartford Region on April 30<sup>th</sup> and over 50 participating sites throughout the Hartford area in the fight to eliminate racism. To learn more or to sign up, please visit [www.StandAgainstRacism.org](http://www.StandAgainstRacism.org) or contact: **Caroline L. Mitchell** at: [carolinem@ywcahartford.org](mailto:carolinem@ywcahartford.org) or 860-525-1163, ext. 218

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate YWCA USA, 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 area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment. For more information, visit [www.ywcahartford.org](http://www.ywcahartford.org).