



hartford region

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**YWCA Hartford Region Takes a *Stand Against Racism*
Thousands expected to participate in event to raise awareness about racism**

Hartford, CT – On Friday, April 29, 2011, YWCA Hartford Region will host its third annual *Stand Against Racism* (www.standagainstracism.org) event throughout the Greater Hartford area. *Stand Against Racism* is a YWCA program that continues to raise awareness that racism still exists in our communities and that it will no longer be ignored or tolerated.

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 56% in the last eight years. SPLC's Intelligence Report (<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/news/hate-group-numbers-up>) sites "immigration fears and a failing economy" as the factors that have fueled the increase. Hate groups promote hostility, violence and attack or malign an entire class of people.

In response, YWCA created *Stand Against Racism* to combat the spread of hate and intolerance, and to honor and celebrate the richness of diversity in our communities. The 2010 event included 37 participating organizations with over 3,000 individuals in the Greater Hartford area. This powerful, unified effort helped raised awareness that "*racism is unacceptable*"! Participants included school-age children, elected officials, executives of large corporations, faith leaders and others.

YWCA Hartford Region is calling on organizations and individuals in the Hartford area to join us by participating in the 2011 *Stand Against Racism*. A participating organization will host their own *Stand Against Racism* event at their own location. YWCA will provide all the necessary materials and documents. Events can range from gatherings at work to larger scale stands like rallies and marches. Organizations and individuals can become a participating site by signing up on the *Stand Against Racism* website at www.standagainstracism.org.

For local information, please contact Caroline L. Mitchell, Director of Racial Justice and Advocacy at YWCA Hartford Region at 860-525-1163, ext. 218 or carolinem@ywc Hartford.org.

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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 area 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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