

YWCA & YOU

NEWS & UPDATES: WHY *You* MAKE A DIFFERENCE

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca

Hartford Region

135 BROAD STREET
HARTFORD, CT 06105

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*Here's the truth
about racial injustice:
It is not just a Black
America problem or a
people-of-color problem.
It is a problem for every
American. It is keeping us
from fulfilling the promise
of liberty and justice for
all. And it is holding our
nation back from realizing
our full potential.*

**VICE PRESIDENT
KAMALA HARRIS**



RACISM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

Together, we can eliminate it

YWCA Hartford Region takes a Stand Against Racism every day. Your support ensures our work on issues of racial and social justice and gender equity remains at the forefront in all we do. As the state opens up after more than a year of COVID restrictions, we must turn this moment into a movement.

We've taken a stand. A bill declaring racism to be a public health crisis and establishing a Commission on Racial Equity In Public Health passed in the House and Senate as this newsletter was going to print. This is an exciting victory, but just the first step. Your continuing support for our advocacy work is making important change – and we need you with us as the work continues!

The COVID pandemic showed that none of us are safe until we all are safe. Connecticut continues to mobilize to get vaccinations into communities hardest hit, especially in the Black and Brown community.

But systemic racism has been with us far longer than the coronavirus, causing incalculable harm. With you, we'll keep working to eliminate it. We're so grateful you understand that, in the words of Emma Lazarus, "Until we are all free, we are none of us free."

Your commitment to the YWCA is a commitment to making all of us free. Eliminating racism, empowering women. That's the work you've chosen to take on with us. Thank you.



THE CROWN ACT IS NOW LAW - THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT!

Connecticut is now the eighth state to pass the C.R.O.W.N. Act. C.R.O.W.N. stands for “Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair.” This law prohibits race-based hair discrimination. That means employment and educational opportunities can no longer be denied because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including braids, locs, twists or bantu knots. With your help and advocacy, Governor Ned Lamont signed the Crown Act into law on March 10.

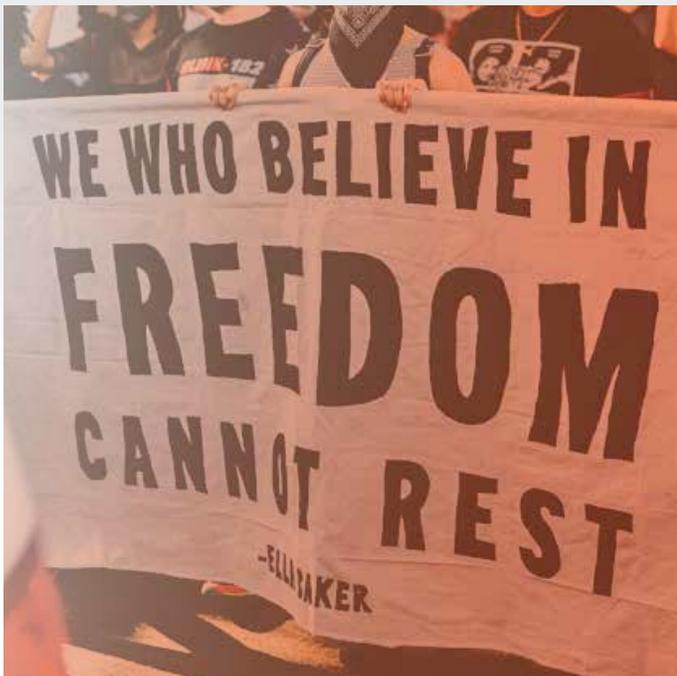


The new law is about so much more than hair. It’s about acknowledging and protecting the personal rights of every man, woman, and child to be true to themselves... regardless of gender, race, or hair style.

Thank you for sharing in this victory! We know you were with us in spirit as the bill was signed into law.

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN US TO

STAND AGAINST RACISM



This year’s *Stand Against Racism* on April 22 felt different. We came together for a virtual symposium, with our guests, Dr. Tekisha Dwan Everette, Cori Mackey, Keren Prescott, and Senator Saud Anwar. Department of Children and Families Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes sent a video message and Melinda L. Johnson, Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy at YWCA Hartford Region, moderated the panel. This year, we addressed racism as a public health threat.

If you missed it, you can still watch Stand Against Racism here: <https://cutt.ly/YWCAHTFD>

Racism is built into our systems, our thinking, our way of life. We can’t leave the work for another generation... too much is at stake! That’s why we are so grateful that you have joined us as we work to eliminate racism together. Thank you!

WHAT IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS?

IT’S DEFINED AS:

- 1 Affects a large number of people
- 2 Threatens health over the long-term
- 3 Requires large-scale solutions to resolve

WITH YOU, WE'RE HELPING TO KEEP **KIDS LEARNING OVER THE SUMMER**

Childcare is essential infrastructure. Parents – especially working mothers – need to know that their children are safe. And without good care, parents cannot work. The impact ripples across our entire community.

During the school year, many parents depend on schools. But summer is a challenge. YWCA's Early Learning Centers are open all year-round. KidsLink is also collaborating with Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) to offer fun, educational childcare to children K-6 over the summer.

Because you care about our youngest neighbors, we can help them learn and play safely. Thank you!



We can't continue to be excited by the fact that we are one of the wealthiest states in the nation and one of the healthiest states in the nation when at the same time we have vast gaps in health and wealth around racial lines.

DR. TEKISHA DWAN EVERETTE

*Executive Director of
Health Equity Solutions*

YOU CAN TAKE ONE SIMPLE STEP TODAY!

Take the pledge! We need you to create a community without racism!



We need you. Will you please use the reply form we've enclosed and add your name today?

We must work together to fight for racial and social justice and stand against systemic racism. Blatant and subtle forms of racism and bigotry have no place in our society.

WHAT'S YOUR WHY?



Kimberly Haidinger wears many hats. Business Owner. Mom. Dance Enthusiast. YWCA Hartford Region supporter. She's a Managing Member of Maximize Your Impact and also oversees multiple Fred Astaire Dance studios and the online dance and fitness platform, Body By Dance.

Kim became a supporter of YWCA Hartford Region after leaving *In the Company of Women* lunches "totally inspired." She felt like part of something much larger than herself. When she attended the Young Women's Leadership Summer Institute last year, she was moved by the young girls. She saw how the YWLC affects their lives, opens up opportunities and empowers them to find their future.

"It's hard to know what one person can do. But the YWCA Hartford Region shows how one person can have an impact on the lives of these amazing and talented young women!"

"I became acutely aware of how prevalent racism and inequities are in our society. Knowing that the YWCA has been fighting to eliminate racism and provide opportunities for women and girls long before the pandemic reaffirmed my commitment to doing my part."

Kim corralled her colleagues throughout the Fred Astaire Dance Studios. They joined her in pledging support for nonprofits throughout New England, including the YWCA Hartford Region. And she continues to contribute 10% of membership fees from Body by Dance subscribers to support women, girls and families.

"My customers and colleagues saw how they too can impact the lives of women and girls every day."

YOU'RE EMPOWERING
**WOMEN AND GIRLS
TO SUCCEED!**

College signing day and new adventures
for 20 recent high school graduates.

At Young Women's Leadership Corps (YWLC) we believe girls can achieve every dream in their heart! We help girls discover their unique talents, skills, and gifts so they can create an incredible future for themselves.

This May, on college signing day, we celebrated 20 members of the Young Women's Leadership Corps program. Each is heading to college in the fall. These talented young women will be attending schools across the country, from HBCUs to UCONN and all points in between.

We're so proud of these young women and we know their future is bright. And we're so grateful to you and the generosity that makes this program possible. Thank you!



*Getting accepted into
10 schools was the most
amazing feeling I could
have possibly had!*

PAI'VAHN
Hampton
University '25



IN THE COMPANY OF WOMEN **LUNCHEON**

**WE HAVE AN OUTSTANDING
SPEAKER FOR YOU - JOIN US?**

We're thrilled to announce that

TERESA C. YOUNGER

*President & CEO, Ms. Foundation for Women,
will be our guest speaker this year.*

Teresa is an activist, advocate and national leader for women's rights and equity... and no stranger to Connecticut! Prior to joining the Ms. Foundation for Women, she served as the Executive Director of Connecticut's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and Executive Director of the ACLU of Connecticut.

To ensure your safety, this luncheon will be virtual once again.

Please plan to join us on

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

*Tickets are \$75.00 and you can purchase them
by texting YWCA2021 to 243725 for a link
or visit <http://bidpal.net/ywca2021>.*

