

# YWCA IS ON A MISSION

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## **YWCA Southeast Wisconsin and YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee Bring Milwaukee Leaders Together for *Stand Against Racism 2021***

MILWAUKEE, WI — Milwaukee has been on the forefront of a national movement to address racism as a public health crisis. To keep the momentum moving, YWCA Southeast Wisconsin and YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee are convening city leaders and supporters as part of YWCA USA's 15th annual action-oriented *Stand Against Racism* campaign.

"The public health perspective gives us the power to engage the entire community in a far-reaching coordinated effort," said Paula Phillips, Sr. Director of Race and Gender Equity at YWCA Southeast Wisconsin. "Milwaukee took the bold first step, and this event will set the tone to keep us moving, because the next few months will be critical."

The virtual panel and action session April 23 brings together the broad network of organizations working on the issue. To help shape the discussion, all attendees will get pre-view access to the documentary "Power to Heal" sponsored by Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin, which details the public health initiative that desegregated thousands of hospitals across the country in a matter of months.

Panelists and participants at the event will represent:

- **Governing bodies** across the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County and the Office of African American Affairs.
- **On-the-ground community advocacy leaders** like Hmong American Women's Association and Voces de La Frontera
- **Major health networks**, including Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin and Children's Wisconsin
- **Private-sector businesses**

"We recognize we are stronger together and we all have a role to play," Shaneé Jenkins, VP of Social Responsibility for the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee. "This initiative aligns with our commitment to advance inclusion and make progress as an anti-racist, multicultural organization, so we are proud to work with the YWCA and other changemakers in our community on this important event and issue."

Leaders will address Milwaukee's unique place in this moment, its effects on our COVID-19 response, and vital upcoming opportunities to advance the movement. The event will organize community advocates to support state policies to address equity, pledge to stand against racism and engage in shaping the discourse of the Milwaukee movement.

Stand Against Racism takes place annually in April and is a signature campaign of YWCA USA to raise awareness about the negative impact of institutional and structural racism in our communities and to build community among those who work for racial justice.

Community members can register at [bit.ly/2OxOI9E](https://bit.ly/2OxOI9E), and will receive access to the film ahead of the panel discussion.

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#### **About YWCA Southeast Wisconsin**

YWCA SEW is part of YWCA USA, a 170+ year old national network with a bold mission to eliminate racism and empower women, and is one of the nation's oldest and most formidable organizations focused on the dignity of women and others who are often discounted. With offices in Milwaukee and Racine and serving nearly 10,000 people annually, YWCA SEW envisions a thriving, inclusive and just region defined by racial and gender equity as the foundation for healthy communities. For more information visit [www.ywcasew.org](http://www.ywcasew.org)

#### **About YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee**

For 162 years, the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee has strengthened the foundations of our community by "Putting Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all." There are five locations throughout the Milwaukee area, as well as YMCA Camp Minikani in Hubertus, along with over 159 program sites where we're committed to being advocates for healthy families and partnering with others to improve the greater good in Milwaukee County.