

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
brooklyn

For Immediate Release:

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YWCA Brooklyn is Energized by the Governor's State of the State Focus on the economic empowerment of women, central to the YWCA Brooklyn mission

Brooklyn, NY January 13, 2017- As a provider of affordable housing and economic empowerment programs for women for more than a century, YWCA Brooklyn recognizes that increasing financial self-sufficiency benefits for the varied constituents with whom we work is a major step forward for NYS. Women working minimum wage jobs; survivors of gender-based violence experiencing housing instability; and low-income and middle class young people enrolling in college will all be positively affected by the Governor's measures to improve economic outcomes.

YWCA Brooklyn joins its sisters throughout New York State who are encouraged by Governor Cuomo's proposals to increase access to affordable childcare through tax credits, increase after school programming, and preserve affordable healthcare – often the most crippling factors to maintaining economic stability for vulnerable women and their families. Eliminating student debt and reducing tuition costs will enable many more girls and students of color to access a college education. As a social justice organization dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women, YWCA Brooklyn applauds the Governor for his leadership in maintaining our communities as safe, inclusive and accepting of all races, ethnicities and religions. Updating our voting systems and structures will ensure that our many diverse communities will be better able to exercise their most important and fundamental right of civic participation.

Additionally, the recently signed Executive Orders addressing pay equity are a major step forward in reducing the gender inequality that continues to plague women's economic advancement. **"Women are the breadwinners in millions of families across New York State and they need access to employment that does not discriminate based on gender or race,"** stated Martha Kamber, CEO and President of the YWCA Brooklyn. **"From a woman in New York City making 80 cents to every dollar a man makes to a woman in Buffalo making 67 cents, and every community in between, addressing the injustice of pay equity is a tangible strategy for stabilizing households across the state."**

The YWCA Brooklyn's vital community programs include college access for girls; safe, affordable, permanent housing for low-income and formerly homeless women; and a Social Justice Community Center offering a full-range of services including health and wellness, economic empowerment, racial justice, violence prevention, and initiatives for trauma survivors. The Community Center is also home to myriad grassroots nonprofits, civic and community groups. **YWCA Brooklyn is dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.**

To support the efforts of the YWCA Brooklyn or to learn more about our programs– look for us on [facebook](#), or at www.ywcabklyn.org, call us at 718-875-1190 or email us at rtelesford@ywcabklyn.org.

YWCA Brooklyn is a unique 501c3 nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with any other YWCA in New York City.

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