



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

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NEWS RELEASE

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The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Welcomes the Action Taken by NBC; CBS Must Follow Suit.

Washington, D.C. – The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), an historic civil rights organization committed to advancing opportunities and improving the quality of life for African American Women welcomes the action taken by MSNBC in dropping Don Imus' cable television. The organization urges *CBS Radio which syndicates Imus' show to radio stations across the country to follow suit.*

"NCNW was both saddened and outraged by his racially and sexually insensitive remarks concerning African-American women," stated Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Chair and President Emerita, NCNW. "Those in the past who have turned a deaf ear to Mr. Imus, or rationalized his behavior for monetary gain must no longer be allowed to do so. Mr. Imus' comments were deplorable, inexcusable and indefensible. His actions simply cannot be tolerated. NCNW supports those advertisers which moved past profit and said 'no more'."

"This act has struck a vicious blow to the aspirations of our young people in finding a meaningful place in our society. The women of the mostly black Rutgers University Basketball team were not just athletes, they were students, first—full of hope and promise. Mr. Imus' comments not only stole a precious moment of pride and dignity from them, he assaulted **them and us** with the harsh reminder that there are still those who would continue to deny others the American dream; and who would continue to attempt to limit what our country can become. We will not be discouraged by Mr. Imus' disturbing perspective. We will simply redouble of efforts and our commitment to positive change for the dignity and respect of all people."

"Change must begin with an open dialogue regarding how we as a society have allowed the state of public airways to deteriorate. Increased sensitivity and cultural diversity in the editorial suites will be an important first step. NCNW will support its coalition partners in undertaking this vitally important dialogue."

Since its founding in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune, NCNW has played a prominent leadership role in unifying of African American women and advocating for causes that affect their lives and families. For more than 70 years, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, a champion of civil rights, has continued this work. NCNW represents the collective voices of the more than **four million African American women**. For more information, visit www.ncnw.org/.

END

Founder: Mary McLeod Bethune

Chair and President Emerita: Dorothy I. Height

Interim Executive Director: Alfreda V. Davis

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