

JAGGED JUSTICE IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

A National Statement from the Women of Color Network, Inc.

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As many high profile cases continue to occur that directly impact communities of color, Women of Color Network, Inc. (WOCN, Inc.), a national organization working to end violence against women of color and their communities, refuses to take a passive stance. Instead, we seek to galvanize a collective voice in solidarity with those who have lost their lives, and with survivors of individual and collective acts of violence within their homes and within the many systems that victimize and re-victimize marginalized populations.

It is imperative that we call upon women and men of color across communities and white aspiring allies, to mobilize and link all forms of violence and intersecting oppressions, when:

No indictments are rendered in such cases as that of Michael Brown's death (Ferguson, MO <http://mic.com/articles/105040/we-still-don-t-have-justice-protesters-release-open-letter-after-grand-jury-decision>);

No convictions are rendered in such cases as that of Trayvon Martin (Sandford, FL <http://trayvonmartinfoundation.org/aboutus.html> and <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/george-zimmerman-not-guilty-blood-on-the-leaves>);

Stand Your Ground laws are not applied in such cases as that of Marissa Alexander (Jacksonville, FL <http://www.freemariassanow.org> and <http://freemariassanow.tumblr.com/post/103480298750/upon-news-of-plea-deal-activists-vow-to-organize>);

Victims are blamed in such cases as that of the violence of Ray Rice against Janay Rice (Baltimore, MD http://espn.go.com/espn/otl/story/_/id/11551518/how-ray-rice-scandal-unfolded-baltimore-ravens-roger-goodell-nfl and interview with Tonya Lovelace-Davis on MSNBC discussing Mrs. Janay Rice's story: <http://www.msnbc.com/the-last-word/watch/janay-rices-story-327136323659>);

It takes over a decade to hear the voices of survivors in sexual violence incidents implicating such individuals as Bill Cosby (<http://www.vulture.com/2014/09/timeline-of-the-abuse-charges-against-cosby.html>);

Child abuse is not fully addressed as in the case of Adrian Peterson (<http://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/vikings/2014/11/04/adrian-peterson-minnesota-vikings-child-abuse-plea-deal-misdemeanor/18466197/>);

Public resistance to criminal injustice and the blatant disregard for the lives of black and brown bodies who are NOT protected is met with militaristic tear gas and handcuffs (<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/michael-brown-shooting/michael-brown-killing-police-ferguson-fire-tear-gas-amid-looting-n182196>); and

Survivors of intimate partner violence are not supported and neither their victimization nor acts of self defense are acknowledged (http://justicewomen.com/tips_dv_victims.html and <http://www.freemariisanow.org/fact-sheet-on-domestic-violence--criminalization.html>).

When JAGGED JUSTICE is the primary response enacted upon JUST US who continue to be violated, battered, and murdered, we stand together and united and proclaim ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

WOCN, Inc. joins our communities in saying ENOUGH. We resist helplessness, voicelessness, and JAGGED JUSTICE that criminalizes, punctures and wounds us rather than heals. To that end, we will work alongside our brothers and sisters and claim our power by fighting back in all of the ways available to us.

WOCN, Inc. collectively mourns the known and unknown losses, and stands in partnership with the families of all the young men killed during what appears to be “open season” on their lives. We will use all of our networks and outlets to raise our voices, bring attention to injustice, and work toward social change.

Therefore, WOCN, Inc. will host two Jagged Justice National Teleconferences for all concerned stakeholders linking together domestic and sexual violence, child abuse and state violence in our communities. We offer this platform to people of color and white aspiring allies to speak freely, and to decide cooperatively the actions we can take and join in across the country.

The two national Jagged Justice calls are as follows:

(1) Wednesday, December 5th from 3:00-4:30 pm EST for women and men of color only (those who identify as being of Asian/Pacific Islander, Arab/Middle-Eastern, Black/African American/Caribbean/West Indies, Native/Indigenous, and Hispanic/Latin descent on a daily basis.

(2) Wednesday, December 12th from 3:00-4:30 pm EST for white aspiring allies and communities of color together to stand in solidarity in addressing these issues that impact us all.

[To participate on these calls, please contact Shasme Jackson at sjackson@wocninc.org for call details.](mailto:sjackson@wocninc.org)

The goals of these Jagged Justice calls are to:

- Connect the dots between current events and the work of women and men of color advocates;
- Problem-solve how the movement/field can participate in addressing these important needs;
- Identify the barriers and intersections preventing healthy communities;
- Share the impact the current political and social climate may be having on people of color working in mainstream organizations;
- Highlight organizing efforts that are happening in your community and how others can participate;
- Discuss what you would like to see happen across disciplines, locally and nationally;
- Share your ideas on ways for WOCN, Inc. to support and amplify a larger leadership role for women of color with regard to local and national advocacy as it relates broader community of color violence and injustice; and
- Discuss ways that white aspiring allies can take united action with women and men of color to address these issues.

Lastly, we invite you to join our collective action to promote the leadership of women of color and their communities across all ethnicities and races, ages, class, economic status, citizenship status, sexual orientations, gender identities, ability, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, body types, faiths, disciplines and localities with the support of all aspiring allies by attending our **2015 National Conference and Summit: Coming Full Circle: Survivors and Communities of Color Leading the Way to Justice and Healing Conference and Summit** taking place on May 20-22, 2015 in San Diego California.

WOCN, Inc. stands in solidarity with those seeking true justice for all our communities.

Silence is NOT an option.

#jaggedjustice

#enoughisenough

WOCN, Inc. is an independent, national grassroots organization advancing the leadership of women of color advocates and activists to end violence against ALL women and their communities.

<http://www.wocninc.org>

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