

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

150 | no easy task
YEARS | no ordinary organization

heinous shooting death at the national holocaust museum

statement of
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Washington, DC (June 10, 2009) - A White supremacist and anti-Semite opened fire in the National Holocaust Museum here in our nation's capital city, taking the life of a security guard and threatening the lives of those who were bearing witness to human acts of hate, intolerance and genocide. We are outraged and saddened by this horrific act and convey our heartfelt condolences to the family of the victim of the attack.

As an organization dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women, the YWCA believes there is absolutely no place in our society for racism and bigotry against anyone because of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.

This crime is a painful reminder of why we all must work collectively to break the ongoing cycle of hatred and intolerance that undermines our society.

A critical step in this effort is updating our federal hate crimes laws to ensure communities have the resources and abilities to investigate and prosecute those who perpetrate hate crimes. For too long, the US Congress has fallen short in updating federal hate crimes laws. Their inaction has lasted far too long – and one more life has been lost in the shadow of hate.

The YWCA calls on Congress to swiftly pass the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Prevention Act to help prevent and prosecute these heinous crimes.

YWCA USA is a national not-for-profit membership organization that provides social service, advocacy, education and leadership development. It is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Established in the United States in 1858, the YWCA is the oldest and largest national women's organization, and celebrating its 150th anniversary. Through its nearly 300 affiliated local YWCAs and its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the YWCA serves 2.5 million women and girls each year. Globally, the YWCA USA

is a member of World YWCA, which has affiliates in 103 countries that serve 25 million women and girls worldwide. Visit www.ywca.org. Contact: Nancy Loving, at 202-467-0801, cell 202-641-1845 or nloving@ywca.org.