



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YWCA of Greater Atlanta Bridges the Gap at HerStory Month Event

Atlanta, Georgia- In honor of Women's HerStory Month, the YWCA of Greater Atlanta and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights presented a thought-provoking panel discussion highlighting issues impacting women and their families for the eighth consecutive year. "Women are the Answer", a free event hosted by Georgia Power, was held on Thursday, March 23rd.

The night featured an intimate discussion as women from different walks of life came together with a common purpose, to inspire other women to unite across racial, social and economic divides to become advocates for change. The evening offered the opportunity for attendees to embrace the wisdom of the past and the passion of the present to move forward as a true sisterhood. Sharmen Gowens, YWCA CEO said, "This event was insightful and inspiring. We all left feeling energized and encouraged to get involved! I look forward to the outcomes of this event, and to watching us grow stronger and closer as women, where we can celebrate our sisterhood each year here in Atlanta during Women's HerStory Month."

"I hope this conversation sparks many more throughout our community," said Deborah Richardson, Senior Advisor for Partner Engagement of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. "We need more dialogues to generate the inclusive solutions that women will offer" she added.

The panel of influential women discussed the importance of intersectionality and inclusiveness in addressing issues confronting local communities, the state and the country. Panelists, diverse in personal identity and advocacy focus, offered practical solutions to a variety of issues surrounding health care, labor laws and pay equity. Panelists included: Park Cannon, the youngest member of the Georgia House of Representatives representing the 58th District; Charon Gaskins, community organizer; Dr. Andrea Swartzendruber, University of Georgia Assistant Professor; and Aisha Yaqoob, Atlanta March for Social Justice and Women organizer and Policy Director for Asian Americans Advancing Justice. The panel was moderated by Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, Director of United Negro College Fund/Mellon Programs and Spelman Professor.

“It is not about how an issue impacts you as an individual,” said Yaqoob. “It’s more important to recognize how that issue impacts women and families as a whole.” “The issues are broad but the target is the same,” added Gaskins.

An audience of about 100 people were inspired by the insights of the panelists and left ready to spring into action. The first step offered was for women to turn out in large numbers during the mid-term elections, and understand that there is great power in the vote on the local levels. The YWCA is excited to partner with women seeking opportunities to address issues impacting women and their families in Greater Atlanta.

ABOUT THE YWCA OF GREATER ATLANTA

YWCA OF GREATER ATLANTA IS A LOCAL CHAPTER OF YWCA USA and has been a voice for change for women and families in Georgia since its founding at Spelman College in 1902. Our organization’s foundation is built upon a history of mobilizing diverse groups of women leaders to identify community problems and advocate for solutions.

To effect long-term change, YWCA of Greater Atlanta addresses the needs of women and girls at multiple levels, providing direct services and programs in tandem with awareness raising and public policy analysis. By focusing on advocacy and social justice, health and safety, and education and economic empowerment, we work to improve the lives of women and girls and their families, and to create safer, healthier, more equitable communities in Georgia. Visit www.ywcaatlanta.org for more information.

ABOUT NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Center for Civil and Human Rights in Downtown Atlanta is an engaging cultural attraction that connects The American Civil Rights Movement to today’s Global Human Rights Movements. The Center features a continuously rotating exhibit from The Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection, which includes many of Dr. King’s documents and personal items. Visitors will be immersed in experiential exhibits through powerful and authentic stories, historic documents, compelling artifacts, and interactive activities. The Center is a source for ongoing dialogue — hosting educational forums and attracting world-renowned speakers and artists who work on a variety of human rights topics. Visit www.civilandhumanrights.org for more information.

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