

## Talking Points on Racial Profiling, Violence and Ferguson Grand Jury Decision

- The YWCA seeks to educate people about the full spectrum of violence that impacts the lives of women, girls, people of color and their communities.
- There are many types of violence in the world and not all violence is acknowledged or responded to equally—especially as it impacts the lives of women, girls and people of color. This spectrum of violence includes institutional and structural violence enacted by our political, economic, and legal systems.
- The YWCA is one of the oldest and largest multiracial women's social justice organizations in the United States. The YWCA is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.
- The YWCA firmly believes that all individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, national origin or gender, have the right to justice and equal protection under the law. This includes policies that eradicate racial profiling, increase immigrant rights, retain and strengthen affirmative action, reduce hate crimes, and that result in increased education on racism and its elimination.
- Racial profiling refers to the practice of a law enforcement agent or agencies relying, to any degree, on race, ethnicity, religion or national origin in selecting which individuals to subject to routine or investigatory activities, such as traffic stops, searches, and seizures. African-Americans, Native Americans, Latinos, and Asians (particularly South and Southeast Asians) have reported being unfairly targeted by police.
- In many border-states and communities with high immigrant populations, law enforcement has been documented to use racial profiling as a method of border security and enforcement. This institutional discrimination contributes to disproportionate surveillance, excessive uses of force and the escalation of violence within immigrant and domestic communities of color.
- In 2003 the Department of Justice issued the [\*Guidance Regarding the Use of Race by Federal Law Enforcement Agencies\*](#) ("Guidance"). While the Guidance sought to eliminate racial profiling, it fell short of ensuring equal treatment under the law for all individuals in the United States.
- YWCA urges the U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and the Department of Justice to make needed improvements to the Guidance and release them promptly.

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- Congress must [take action](#) and pass the End Racial Profiling Act this year. This bill requires that local law enforcement agencies receiving federal funds maintain adequate cultural competency policies and procedures for eliminating racial profiling.
- The YWCA believes the right to join with fellow citizens in protest or peaceful assembly is critical to a functioning democracy. But unfortunately some governments and police can violate this right – through the use of mass arrests, illegal use of force, criminalization of protest, and other means intended to thwart free public expression.