

National Black Church Initiative

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The National Black Church Initiative Condemns George Huguely For Murdering Yeardeley Love

Violence Against Black Women Continues To Go Unnoticed

Washington DC - On Monday, May 3, 2010 Yeardeley Love was brutally murdered in her home – a victim of apparent domestic abuse at the hands of her boyfriend George Huguely. The National Black Church Initiative, a coalition of 34,000 churches nationwide, joins the collective outcry condemning this act of violence, particularly since in this case the act of violence was against a woman. As the story has unfolded, much attention has been paid to the promising future of Yeardeley Love – how tragedy has cut short the life of someone clearly on a trajectory for success. The National Black Church Initiative similarly mourns this loss - lamenting that young women are forced to fear for their lives and remain on constant guard against attack; especially since those attacks come all too often from someone they know and trust.

The National Black Church knows too well that violence is a commonplace occurrence of everyday life. According to the National Organization of Women, “In 2005, 1,181 women were murdered by an intimate partner. That's an average of three women every day. Of all the women murdered in the U.S., about one-third were killed by an intimate partner.” Newspapers and news channels are constantly reporting these horrors but the question remains – do our African American sisters receive the same public support? Do their deaths, often just as ‘newsworthy’ as their white peers receive the same outcries of indignation and rage? In the articles following Love’s murder the pervasive sentiment was how someone so rich, so normal, so *white* commit such a horrible act?

African-American women face higher rates of domestic violence than white women. A fitting analogy - Yeadley Love's murder was a ripple in an otherwise smooth pond. Violent crimes against African American women are often one of many ripples in a tempestuous pond. Love's murder is one of few waves crashing against the shore while the African American community is literally flooded with grief and cyclic violence. We can ill afford to become desensitized to violence against ANYONE. This means that yes, we need to hear the story of Yeadley Love and we should mourn that loss but no, we cannot deafen our ears to the stories of our African American women and men who lose their lives in similarly tragic ways.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of The National Black Church Initiative says, "Violence against women is absolutely, fundamentally wrong. Any man who hits a woman is wrong – just as a woman hitting a man is wrong, violence is never the answer. What George Huguely did to Yeadley Love was evil – who gives him the right to take a life? Only God has that right. Women should have the right to say no, a real man would have been capable of walking away. This violence, against young, defenseless women happens all around the world. Joran van der Sloot, the alleged murderer of Natalie Halloway and confessed murderer of a young woman in Peru, has something in common with George Huguely – they are both monsters. The church prays for the souls of these tragically departed women and for their parents whose lives have been turned upside down from the loss of their children. The Black Church will never tolerate this violence and will continue to use our moral authority to put an end to it. May God have mercy."

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.