Black Women Team up to Energize Voters of Color
Goal Remains to Mobilize and Leverage Power of Black Vote

By D. Kevin McNeil
WI Editor

Black women, all leaders in their respective cities and communities, recently participated in a roundtable tele-press conference where they addressed critical issues that impact Black women in the workforce, education, health, and politics.

They describe their efforts as a part of the "sisterhood" that recognizes the power of the "sister vote." In this current "state of emergency," they are engaging in community organizing to address issues that impact Black women and girls.

The Black Women's Roundtable, an organization that focuses on providing resources and support to Black women, has launched its national multi-media campaign and plans to roll out its national issues agenda in October.

They say their efforts are aligned with a call to action by the NAACP and its "One Black Vote" campaign and the "Black Women's Roundtable, the intergenerational women and girls' empowerment arm of The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP)," launched its national multi-media campaign and a series of regional activities earlier this year, aimed at building voter enthusiasm and getting out the Black vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

PRESIDENT OBAMA VISITS BANNEKER HIGH SCHOOL
Banneker Academic High School received a visit Monday morning from President Obama, as Ifinanya Chukwuma Azikiwe introduced the president to the audience for what is likely his last speech on education at his final term winding down. / Photo by Sherry Luster

Is God Dead? Certainly Not Says Fred Hammond
Gospel Legend and Friends Prepare for District Praise Fest

By D. Kevin McNeil
WI Editor

Sometimes life can seem overwhelming — from incomes that fall short of one's monthly expenses to wayward children who refuse to do the right thing.

But when gospel legend Fred Hammond and a few of his friends swoop down on the District next month, they promise an evening where those who believe in God as well as people simply seeking encouragement will get more than they bargained for.

Fred Hammond (above) is a multi-talented musician, composer, and entrepreneur who has been making music for over 30 years.

Hammond, who is fluent in several languages, is known for his smooth vocals and soulful music. He has released numerous albums and singles that have charted on various music charts.

The event is called "Is God Dead?" and is a preview of his upcoming CD release. The event is expected to draw a large crowd, with many people looking forward to hearing him perform live.

Organization Seeks to 'Stomp Out' Bullying

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

A large majority of teenagers hold a very pessimistic view of the United States, with 88 percent saying that they believe the country is lacking kindness, according to a new survey released by STOMP Out Bullying, the leading national bullying and cyberbullying prevention nonprofit organization for young children and teens.

STOMP Out Bullying is a nonprofit organization that works to end bullying and cyberbullying of all kinds. They work to raise awareness, educate people on how to stop bullying, and provide resources to victims.

The survey, which was conducted in October, is recognized as National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.

"Whether at school, in front of a computer screen, or on digital devices, bullying and cyberbullying are unfortunately more present than ever before," Ross Ellis, founder and CEO of STOMP Out Bullying, said in a statement. "We need to continue emphasizing the importance of kindness, which is critical not only to youth character development, but kindness can also make a positive, lasting impact on our world today."

STOMP Out Bullying advocates for teaching more empathy and kindness among a diverse population of students in schools to create a positive culture, stronger communities, and more student leaders, Ellis said.

Earlier this month, schools throughout the District and in Maryland, including Baltimore, alerted students and others about the bullying problem, and provided resources and support to those affected.
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the effects of bullying.

Baltimore County Public Schools held “Bullying Prevention Week,” adorning school walls and its website with slogans like “Be Smart. Don’t Start!” The campaign featured special activities each day, bullying prevention pledges for students to sign, and a day to flood social media with positive messages as a symbolic blow to cyberbullying.

“We all need to remind ourselves and each other that we’re always better than bullying,” said BCPS Superintendent S. Dallas Dance, whose Student Advisory Council joined with Baltimore County Student Councils several years ago to create Bullying Prevention Week. “Throughout the week, our students [reminded] one another as well as the larger community to reject bullying by stopping it before it begins. All of us can be smart by opposing bullies and bullying everywhere from the start.”

STOMP Our Bullying officials said there have been encouraging signs of progress in the effort to end bullying. Most teens are confident in their school’s ability to handle bullying, with 61 percent saying they believe their school handles bullying issues sufficiently, according to the nonprofit’s survey.

Concurrently, teens themselves are becoming more empowered to stand up and report instances of bullying if they see them. Nearly two-thirds have reported instances of bullying to a teacher, parent or other authority figures.

Additional findings in the survey indicated that 45 percent of teens see as much bullying online as they see in person; teens in the U.S. are more likely to report instances of bullying in person than bullying online; four out of five teens have stood up to bullying; and nearly all teens believe that seeing more kindness around them will make them want to act “more kindly to others.”

Also, boys — 35 percent — are more likely than girls — 27 percent — to see bullying occur more often online than in person and boys — 22 percent — are slightly more likely to report online bullying than girls — 17 percent.

To help further the organization’s mission of ending bullying, STOMP Our Bullying recently announced a new “ambassador,” Kind the blue elephant. KIND acts as a symbol for the need to spread compassion and kindness throughout the world.

“It’s not surprising to see why teens have such a negative view of our nation’s behavior, given the onslaught of violence and hostility that we see on a daily basis,” said Ellis.

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Ross Ellis / founder and CEO
STOMP Out Bullying

"Nearly nine in 10 teens say the U.S. needs kindness right now and most believe it affects the way teens treat other teens. / Courtesy of STOMP Out Bullying"

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

GO BLUE!

Almost nine in 10 teens say the U.S. needs kindness right now and most believe it affects the way teens treat other teens.

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