

# **Top Black Women Leaders Denounce Racist, Sexist Attacks Against VP Candidates**

## **OPEN LETTER BY BLACK WOMEN LEADERS IN RESPONSE TO THE NARRATIVE SURROUNDING BLACK WOMEN NOMINEES FOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Black women are many things. We are business executives, political strategists and elected officials, philanthropists, and activists. We are health and wellness practitioners. We are entertainers and faith leaders. We are wives, mothers, daughters, educators, and students. We set and shift culture. We build power and we are powerful.

We are the highest propensity voters in this nation. We are a coalition of Black women leaders, who, in this inflection point of the Black liberation movement, where people around the world are galvanized to action, know that the time for Black women in the United States is now.

Over the past few months in the media, we have witnessed many Black women put forth as potential Vice Presidential candidates including former Gubernatorial Candidate Stacey Abrams, Congresswoman Karen Bass, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms, Senator Kamala Harris, Congresswoman Val Demings, and former US Ambassador Susan Rice, be publicly critiqued. We have also watched many of these highly-credentialed women be disrespected in the media over the last few weeks.

Regardless of your political affiliation, whether it's the media, members of the vice presidential vetting committee, a former Governor, a top political donor, or a small town mayor: We are not your Aunt Jemimas. The use of the racist myth of a happy, Black servant portrayed as a happy domestic worker loyal to her White employer is not lost on us. While some of the relentless attacks on Black women and our leadership abilities have been more suggestive than others, make no mistake--we are qualified and ambitious without remorse.

We are servant leaders -- motivated by a desire to uplift and advance our communities and nation. And we will not tolerate racist or sexist tropes consistently utilized in an effort to undermine our power. No matter who you are supporting for Vice President, you should be equally outraged by the blatant disrespect of Black women.

Black women have been and remain vital across sectors. We are indebted to women like Ella Baker, Septima Clarke, Shirley Chisholm, Angela Davis, Fannie Lou Hamer, Barbara Jordan, Ruby Doris Robinson, and Ida B. Wells just to name a few. These women have fought to move us forward and are collectively responsible for much of this country's progress. Black women have been leading, and we must honor, protect, support, and uplift them.

In solidarity,

Concerned Black Women Leaders

Debra Abernathy	Cora Masters Barry	Cassandra Brown
Kathy Adams	Juanita Barton	Waqueta Brown
Katrina Adams	Jackita Bass	Theresa Brown
Ifeoluwa Adaralegbe	Ezell Battle	Veronica Brown
Alice Agnew	Julia Battle	Robin Brown
Marceline Alexander	Sheryl Battles	Erin Broyard-Stennis
Rev. Dr. Natalie P. Alford, Ed D.	Julie A. Bayley	Julia W Brunson
Chinita Allen	Jacqueline L. Bazan	Joy Burkes
Valentia Alleyne	Latres Bell	Rhonda Burnough
Aimee Allison	Tracy Bell	Robin Burton
Karen Alston	Michelle Bell	Cassandra Butcher
Rev. Dr. Antoinette Alvarado	Nadja Bellan-White	Helen Butler
Lauretta Amanor	Sharon Bennett	Shane Butler
Tanasha Anders	Sydney Benson	Brandy Butler
Rev. Dr. Karen Anderson	Cheryl Benton	Cynthia Butler-McIntyre
Carolyn Anderson	Salandra Benton	Jaronica Byner
Cynthia Anderson	Love Benton	Leslie Callahan
Elizabeth Andrews	Nicole Bernard	Melanie Campbell
Angela Angel	Williette Berry	Ginger Campbell
O.M. Archibald	Tara Beverly	Rhonda Cantelow
Shavon Arline-Bradley	Therese Binfon	Yolanda Caraway
Cheeneah Armstrong	Rev. Traci Blackmon	Brenda Cardwell
Shyra Arrington	Deborah Blanks	Glynda Carr
Adjoa B. Asamoah	Kelly Bolden	Rev. Dr. Iva Carruthers
Tondalaire Ashford	Talia Boone	Ruth Carter
Latoya Asia	Imani Bordeaux	Stacia Carter
Antonia Astin	Andrea Boyd	Erika Carver
Isophine Atkinson	Kortni Boyd	Lynette Castille-Hall
Chanda Austin	Karen Boykin-Towns	Candi Castleberry
Keenan Austin Reed	Karen Brailsford	Chellee Cephas
Sade Awe	Nedra Braithwaite	Sandra Chaney
Hope Ayers	Sylvia Braswell	Tomyka Chaney
Barbara Bagneris	Donna Brazile	Kelsey Charley
Vera Alice Bagneris	Rhonda Briggins	Jamila Chase
TL Bails	Valerie Briggs	Audrey Chase
Raymone Bain	Jessica Bright	Emmalesha Christman
Valerie Hollingsworth Baker	Roslyn Brock	Lavonda Clarington
Sheila Banks	Melonese Brookins	Kyree Clarke
Beatrice Baptiste	Desiree Brooks	Mia Clay
Marla Barbee	Shannon Brooks	Felicia Clayton
Pamela Barnes	Clayola Brown	Billie Coachman
Angela Barrett-Brown	Dy Brown	Natalie Cofield
Janine Sherman Barroris	LaTosha Brown	Tamara Cofield

DJaris Cofield-Holman  
Reecie Colbert  
Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole  
Kandice Cole  
Tiffany Johnson Cole  
Shantelle Coleman  
Michelle Coleman  
Maurita Coley  
Barbara Collins  
Edda Collins Coleman  
Kelli Coleman  
Constance Colter-Brabham  
Stephné Coney  
Sescily Coney, Esq.  
April Conley  
Jeanette Conrad-Ellis  
Akunna Cook  
Pamela Cook  
Alfreda Coward  
Shaneika Crawford  
Kia Crawford  
Tracy Crayton  
Stacey Crooks  
Crystal Crump  
Christina Cue  
Maya R. Cummings  
Brittany Packnett Cunningham  
Kay Dalton  
Cheri Daniels  
Vonetta Daniels  
Vickel Darby  
The Reverend Leah D. Daughtry  
Rev. Dr. Dawnique Daughtry  
Dr. Karen Daughtry  
Mona Davenport  
Marilyn Davis  
Alfreda V. Davis  
Alma G. Davis  
Angela Davis  
Marquita Davis  
Crystal Davis  
Tawana Davis  
Olivia Davis  
Patricia Myatt Davis  
Dee Dawkins-Haigler  
Ernette Dawson  
Pamela Dawson  
Tamika Day  
Morgan DeBaun  
E Patricia Debrick

Candace Delaine  
Suzanne DePasse  
Shermaine Derrick  
Tara DeVeaux  
Tameika Devine  
Y. Falami Devoe  
G Funmilayo Devoe  
Kangelon Dexter  
Dazon Dixon Diallo  
Synithia Dowdell-Cole  
Michelle Dubois  
Dr. Hazel N. Dukes  
Wanda Dunham  
Michelle Dutton  
Jotaka L. Eaddy  
Lenora Abraham Eaddy  
Kathi Earles  
Patricia Earley  
Megaly Echikunwoke  
Sonya Ede-Williams  
Ramona H Edelin  
Denice Edwards  
Danette Edwards  
Betty Edwards  
Colette Edwards  
Brenda Edwards-Miller  
Michelle Huff Elliot  
Reaneé Ellis  
Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins  
Starr Essence  
Erika Estrada  
Lori Evans  
Ann Everett  
Cherylance Farnum  
Toni Fay  
Michelle Byrd Felder  
Karen Finney  
Nadia Fischer  
Rolanda Fleming  
Alicia Flemming-Bragg  
Barbara Flowers  
Lisa Flowers  
Lourdes Dolores Follins  
Karla Forbes  
Elizabeth Ford  
Dr. Tawuana Ford  
Dwetha Forrest  
Heather Foster  
Endrea Frazier  
Melonie Frazier

Charlotte Freeman  
Laconduas Freeman  
Patricia Frye  
Nicole Fryer  
Francine Gadson  
Michelle Gadson-Williams  
Temperence Gaines  
Jasmine Gaither  
Wynda Garcia  
Deirdre Garrett-Scott  
Yvonne Gates  
Shannon Gatlin  
Ronda Gedward  
Melissa George  
Clea George  
Atim George  
A'shanti Gholar  
Siddiqah Gibson  
Jonetta Gilbert Jackson  
Bobette Gillette  
Monique Gilliam  
Toria Gladney-Neal  
Rhonda Godfrey  
Robin Godwin  
Amy R. Goldson  
Amber Goldwire-Wade  
Petula Gomillion  
Ingrid Gordon  
Jacqueline Graham  
Trudy Grant  
Mary G Grant  
Sharron Grant-Burton  
Donna Graves  
Ruth Gray  
Nicole Grayson  
Simone Green  
Kimberly Green  
Linda Mercado Greene  
LaTisha Gregory  
Keith Griffin  
Gloria Griffith  
Jacquelyn Griffith  
Tammy Grimes  
Mamee Groves  
Carmalitha Gumbs  
Vickey Hale  
Staci Hallmon  
Nadia Hankerson  
Alexis Hankerson  
Joyce Harley

Lauren Harper  
Princess Harper  
Carlotta Harrell  
Rutha Harris  
Vernita Harris  
Roslyn Harris  
Ursula Harris  
Aisha Harrison  
Vickie Abdullah Hasan  
Kynderly Haskins  
Charlitta Hatch  
Nocola Hemphill  
Kristi Henderson  
Christina Henderson  
Tarrow Henderson  
Rhana Henry  
America Henson  
Rosemary Hickman  
Carolyn Highsmith  
Veronica Hill  
Selena Hill  
Debbie Hillman  
Aisha Hinds  
Devina Hogan  
Chandra Holdren  
Holli Holiday  
Tawnya Holliman  
LaShonda "L.J." Holloway  
Juenesse Holman  
Juenesse Holman  
Candace Holmes  
Yolanda Holmes  
Pamela Holmes  
Shirley Holmes  
Rosalind Home  
Beverly Hood  
Gwendolyn Hopkins  
Betty Horton-Hodge  
Vida Hotchkiss  
Monique Houser  
Tamara Houston  
Mary Howard  
Carls Huggins  
Rachael Humphrey  
Nina Hunter  
Latoya Hunter  
Ifeoma Ike, Esq.  
Janaye Ingram  
Amy Elisa Jackson  
Adrienne Jackson

Daphne Jackson  
Constance Jackson  
Monique Jackson  
Merylin Jackson  
Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes  
Keisha Sutton James  
Tiffany James  
Sharon Jamison  
Rania Jamison  
Debbie Jarvis  
Michelle Jawando  
Andria Jeffries  
Alice Jenkins  
Gloria Jenkins  
JaMia Jenkins  
Marissa Jennings  
Jillian Johnson  
Taylor Johnson  
Corlett Johnson  
Tammy Johnson  
Toni Johnson  
Karla Johnson  
Victoria Johnson  
Velyna Johnson  
Nicole Johnson  
Sandra Phillips Johnson  
Charise Johnson  
Essence Johnson  
Star Jones  
Valeisha Butterfield Jones  
Toni Jones  
Jennifer Jones  
Tishaura Jones  
Veronica G Jones  
Michele Jones  
Kimberly Jones-Anthony  
Avis Jones-DeWeever Ph.D.  
Cheryl Jordan  
Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson  
Suzanne Kay  
Naima J. Keith  
Cynthia Keller  
Cass Keller  
Jenea Kennedy  
Sonya Kenner  
Seymone Killins  
Karen Kimbrough  
Charmion Kinder  
Kimberly King  
Lisa King

Daveitta Knight  
Niija Kuykendall  
Machelle Kyles  
Fatimot Ladipo  
Keisga Lance  
Elsie Langham  
Arnetta Langham  
Lorraine Lathen  
Tina Knowles Lawson  
Patrice Leach  
Dr. Nicole Turner Lee  
Phoebe Lee  
Pamela Lee  
Rev. Adora Iris Lee  
Veleria Levy  
Peggy Lewis  
Nakisha Lewis  
L. Toni Lewis, MD  
Jeanine Liburd  
Rosalind Lindsay  
Lashandra Little  
Nawassa Logan  
Barbara Long  
Tiffany Lovelady  
Chanceé Lundy  
Sara Lyons  
Gabriele Mack  
Tamika Mallory  
Donna Marable  
Tyra Mariani  
Alise Marshall  
Dee Marshall  
Zola Mashariki  
Krystle Matthews  
Patrice Matthews  
Roselyn Matthews  
Bre Maxwell  
Gwynne Mayo  
Flo McAfee  
Denise McCain  
Tatyana McCall  
Sharon McCarter  
Denyse McCombs  
Darryal McCullough  
Keisha McDuffie  
Neisha McGee  
Carla McGhee  
Crystal McKeith  
Courtney McKenney  
Vashti Murphy McKenzie

Gwen McKinney  
Jamila Hall McKnight  
Mia McLeod  
Erica McNeil  
Mary Melvin  
Ellene Miles  
Vernice Miller-Travis  
Catherine Minnis  
Jasmine Minor  
Alexis Mitchell  
Kenyatta Mitchell  
Kawana Mitchell  
Arabia Mollette  
Leah Moody  
Minyon Moore  
Laurie Moore  
Bethanne L Moore, MD  
Andrea Morgan  
Tangy Morgan  
Tabbytha Morton  
Jessica Moss  
Laura Murphy  
Veronica Murvin  
Dia Myrick-Taylor  
Willette Neal  
Shaterica Neal  
Denise E. Nedab  
Adrian Neely  
Tracie Nesmith  
Denise Nicholas  
Rosalyn Nichols  
Rachel Noerdlinger  
Syreta Oglesby  
Dr. Amira Ogunleye  
Shellie Olds-Johnson  
Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver  
Martha Oliver  
Uriridiakoghene Onovakpuri  
Lakeshia Parks  
Collyne Partee  
Naomi Pate  
Dr Shelia Payton  
Barbara A. Perkins  
LaTausha Perkins-Allen  
Karen Carter Peterson  
Denise Peterson  
Fran Phillips-Calhoun  
Robin Pickett  
Georgette Pierre  
Sheila Plummer

Joyce Polite-Davis  
Tara Porcher  
Angelyn C. Porter  
Tracie Pough  
Michelle Pourciau  
Lydia Powell  
Sandra Powell  
Raychel Proudie  
Dr. Pamela Pugh  
Andrea Pugh-Kelley  
Holly Raindrop  
Myrtis Ramsey  
Tamisha Raqib  
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake  
Sabrina Rawls  
Gwendolyn Reape  
Jennifer Clyburn Reed  
Pamela Redd  
Carolyn Reed  
DeAndria Reed  
Beverly Reid  
Sharese Reyes  
Jessica Rhau  
Jessica Rhodes  
Libi Rice  
Karen Richardson  
Ethel Richardson  
Ebonie Riley  
Jennifer Riley  
Molatri Roberts  
Roger Roberts  
Imani Dru Robinson  
Karen A. Robinson  
Lydia Robinson  
Pam Robinson  
Kimberly Robinson  
Pam Robinson  
Tamara Rodriguez  
Pamela Rogers  
Ruth Rollins  
Demarish Ruffin-Smith  
Angela Rye  
Deena Sams  
Tara Sanchez  
Dr. Karen Eley Sanders  
Comelia R. Sanford  
Mosi Saxton  
Kailee Scales  
Chalana Scales-Ferguson  
Kristina Scott

Amanda Seales  
Kimberly Selden  
Charita Selden  
Patricia Selden-Black  
Chelonnda Seroyer  
Kalen Shaw  
Dana Vickers Shelley  
V. Joy Simmons  
Aoki Lee Simmons  
Denise Simmons  
Ming Lee Simmons  
Yvette Simpson  
Eris Sims  
Jessica Sims  
Dr. Chantrise Sims-Holliman  
L'Tryce Slade  
Denise Young Smith  
Marcia Smith  
Deborah Smith  
Shavone Smith  
Tiffany Smith-Anoa'i  
Nicola Smith-Kea  
Marian Solomon-Gaines  
Lashandra Span  
Vanessa Spencer  
Lillie St. Clair  
Aimy Steele  
Sherri Killins Stewart  
Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart  
Iris Stover  
Shannon Sullivan  
Adrienne Sutton  
Estelle Swaray  
Lyric Swinton  
Debra Taliaferro-Holmes  
Margaret Tatum  
Kerene Tayloe  
Lawonna Taylor  
Makani Themba  
Rev. Dr. Regena Thomas  
Sandi Thomas  
Kathryn Thomas  
Tiffany Thompson  
Qianna Tidmore  
Karen Toles  
Sabrina Stroud Toney  
Cheryl Calicott Trawick  
Kim Trent  
Shuana Tucker  
Donna Turk

Rev. Eboni Marshall Turman Ph.D.	Phillana Williams
Juanita Turman, Ph.D.	Cheryll Willis
Angela Bundrant Turner	Yvette Wilson
Prichelle Turner	Debbie Wilson
Meredith Turner	Brenda Winston
Cynthia Turner	Latabia Woodward
Cheryl Turner	Haydn Wright
Christilian Turner	Rosemary Wright
Sheila Tyson	Aleta Wyche
Debbie Vaughn	Tamara Yancy
Nicole Venable	
Venita Vinson	
Jessie Warren Vinson	
DeAna Jo Vivian	
Lesley Walker	
Bridgette Walker	
Cora Faith Walker	
Toni Ward	
Denice Ware	
Linda Ware	
Angela Warner	
Dorcas Washington	
Lydia Washington	
Ashanti Washington	
Margaret Washington	
Kendal Washington White	
Sherri Washington, Esq	
Felicia Wasson	
Alison Watkins	
Dolores Watson	
Rose Watson	
Karen Weaver	
Lea Webb	
Renita Weems	
Cherylann Westerfield	
Latoshia Whaley	
Christine White	
Jaffee White	
Lexus White	
Fern White	
Yoshino White	
Andrea Whitfield	
Angela Whitfield	
Deborah Wilder	
Jheanelle Wilkins	
Aristea Williams	
Cynthia Williams	
Elizabeth A Williams	
L. Joy Williams	
Michelle Williams	