

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**FROM: YWCA MISSOULA, NCBI MISSOULA**  
**CONTACT: Katie Koga, [katie@ncbimissoula.org](mailto:katie@ncbimissoula.org)**  
**SUBJECT: “Missoula Racial Justice Teach-In and Vigil Sparks Conversation on Race in Missoula”**

*MISSOULA* – This September will be the three-month anniversary of the shooting of the Black church attendees in Charleston, as well as the 15 month anniversary of the death of Eric Garner at the hands of the New York Police Department. In an effort to create a broader dialogue on race within Missoula, NCBI and YWCA Missoula and will sponsor and host a “Missoula Racial Justice Teach-In and Vigil” Thursday September 17 from 6 – 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public, and will take place at the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church at 130 S 6<sup>th</sup> St. E.

The teach-in will be interactive and activity-based with an emphasis on translating intent into action and change. The two organizations seek both allies and people of color who have witnessed and experienced racism and seek to both better understand and work toward racial justice. YWCA Missoula and NCBI hope the event will give community members the tools with which to better see and speak out against racism in their communities. The teach-in will end with a candlelit vigil on the Higgins Street Bridge to honor the men and women whose lives were lost to incidents of hatred, prejudice and racial profiling. Media coverage is welcome before the event, as well as during and after the vigil.

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*Founded in 1911, YWCA Missoula is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Learn more at [www.ywcaofmissoula.org](http://www.ywcaofmissoula.org).*

*NCBI Missoula creates a more just and inclusive society by developing leaders who work to end mistreatment, correct systemic inequalities and strengthen community cohesion. Learn more at [www.ncbimissoula.org](http://www.ncbimissoula.org).*