

Missionary Baptist Ministers Conference of Washington, DC & Vicinity

Dr. James Coleman, President

PRESS RELEASE

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MISSIONARY BAPTIST MINISTERS CONFERENCE OF WASHINGTON, DC & VICINITY

Statement from Dr. James Coleman, President Missionary Baptist Ministers Conference of Washington, DC & Vicinity

Clergy representing Churches in the Washington District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia vicinity present this statement in response to the despicable characterizations made by Don Imus and his cohorts about players on the Rutgers University women's basketball team, most of which are African American.

We feel compelled to express our feelings of righteous indignation against the display of venomous spewing of hurtful comments aimed specifically at innocent college aged women students at Rutgers University, and women in general.

The Don Imus in the Morning Show is a nationally syndicated broadcast that entertains millions of listeners and viewers. Such media power in the hands of individuals who find it amusing to humiliate women by calling them "'nappy headed hos," "tattooed rough girls" and to liken the Rutgers women's basketball team to the NBA Toronto Raptors male team is, to say the least, insensitive and ruthless.

Over the years, Don Imus and cohorts have repeated practices of espousing immoral judgments against people of various ethnic races and backgrounds. The media power gained by Mr. Imus over recent decades has apparently caused him to lose a sense of moral conscience and perspective when it comes to judging others. The bible says "judge not, that ye be not judged- for with the same judgment that you mete out to others will be used to judge you also. (Matthew 7:1-2)

As Clergy, our prophetic voice does not afford us the luxury to remain silent while wrongful acts of brutal verbal bullying and sadistic clubbing of the positive images of these young women suffer an unwarranted hateful attack. The abuse of media power supplied ultimately by MSNBC and affiliates cannot go unchallenged.

Therefore, we declare that we will join others in boycotting commercialized products that financially buttress the Don Imus in the Morning Show. The caustic and reckless statements expressed as humor by the male fraternity on the show is a sign of spiritual sickness and deep immorality. Our response is to say enough is enough! We expect and charge station owners of the Don Imus show to change the format to include sensitivity to racial diversity and respect for women's rights. Additionally, it would seem a fitting gesture of repentance to offer to pay the equivalent tuition cost covering the team members' entire college expenses or pay the same amount to the athletic alumni endowment program. Above all else, we the Missionary Baptist Ministers Conference of Washington, D.C. and Vicinity expect the racial overtones, epithets and slurs to stop immediately.

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