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*****RSVP TODAY: AUGUST 24-25*****

**FIRST-EVER WORKING WHILE BLACK EXPO TO OFFER HEALTH & WELLNESS
HEALING FOR TRAUMA RELATED TO SYSTEMIC RACISM**

Safe Black space being offered Black workers at upcoming Baltimore-based expo is particularly valuable after Trump's verbal attacks on the city.

Advanced interviews are available. Contact kawana@megaphonestrategies.com

BALTIMORE--In the wake of presidential attacks on the majority Black city of Baltimore in which Trump called the city "dangerous and filthy" and a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess," the [National Black Worker Center Project](#) (NBWCP) announced a series of workshops on health and wellness for the city's majority Black population at the first-ever [Working While Black Expo Aug. 24 and 25](#) (*for more info, to RSVP or to set-up advanced interviews by contacting kawana@megaphonestrategies.com or cabot@megaphonestrategies.com*).

A key speaker for the Black Expo health and wellness series leader and co-founder of Safe Black Spaces, **Dr. Kristee Haggins**, who equates racism with violence and has led community healing circles in memory of victims of police violence like Stephon Clark, a Sacramento resident gunned down in March 2018, by police who mistook the cell phone he was clutching for a gun.

"In the current climate, many people of African ancestry are experiencing trauma related to systemic racism and are feeling the impact of our humanity not being valued," **says Haggins**. "Some of us avoid our feelings or numb out. Some of us experience fear that something bad is going to happen to us or to our loved ones. Some of us are struggling with rage and frustration. It can be overwhelming.

"The absence of trauma-informed, culturally competent mental health care in Black communities means we are not being properly served when we do seek help," **says Haggins**. "Money is often spent on care that does not address our specific needs or concerns and which can be re-traumatizing."

Following the Trump's comments and tweets attacking Baltimore, residents criticized the president for using "dehumanizing" language to describe the city, and noted that his comments were painful. Observers say the president ignores root causes of Baltimore's problems such as lack of resources, disparity in investment, housing and other factors.

"Baltimore is often a poster child for urban problems," says **Dorcas Gilmore, executive director of the Baltimore Black Worker Center**. "There are problems here, like joblessness and homelessness, typical urban problems, unfortunately. But we also have a committed and

passionate community who are tackling these problems. The president's comments are not appreciated, and just do damage to our efforts."

Safe Black Space provides culturally specific strategies and resources to help Black people heal from historical and current wounds, individually and collectively.

The [Working While Black Expo](#) is hosted by the NBWCP, a national organization committed to ending Black under- and unemployment, workplace discrimination and racism. It operates through eight regional centers, including its newly-organized center in Baltimore. The organization selected Baltimore as the site of its first expo to support its new center, and also Baltimore, which has experienced major challenges in governance and its civic life over the last several years.

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The National Black Worker Center Project (NBWCP) launched in 2011 to address the job crisis for Black workers. Its mission is 1) to support and incubate Black worker centers that empower Black workers to advance their rights and improve the quality of jobs in key employment centers; 2) to prevent racial discrimination in hiring and other employment practices and policies; and 3) to provide education about the impacts of low-wage work and unemployment on Black communities. See the [full list of NBWCP affiliates](#) in Baltimore; Los Angeles; Bay Area; Chicago; Greenville, MS; New Orleans; Rocky Mount, NC; and Washington, DC