

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UJIMA, THE NATIONAL CENTER ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY, LAUNCHES “CELEBRATING THE PAST. FUNDING THE FUTURE.”—BEGINNING JUNETEENTH 2025, THIS ONGOING GIVING INITIATIVE WILL HELP TO SUSTAIN LIFE-SAVING SERVICES FOR BLACK WOMEN & GIRLS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 17, 2025)** — For the past 10 years, **Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community** has been a lifeline and a very powerful resource—protecting, advocating for, and uplifting Black women and girls impacted by domestic, sexual, and community violence.

But in 2025, culturally specific organizations like Ujima are under threat. Federal disinvestment is rising, and funding for culturally specific organizations is being cut at alarming rates.

That’s why, beginning this Juneteenth, Ujima is launching “Celebrating the Past. Funding the Future.” This bold new ongoing giving initiative calls on the community to invest in freedom, including safety, healing, and justice.

“As we celebrate a decade of service, we also face a sobering reality: without sustained investment, our future—and the futures of the survivors we support—is at risk.”

This Juneteenth, we ask our community to help fund what's next. We've been here. We're still here. And with your support, we will continue to be a force for safety, healing, and justice.”

—**Karma Cottman, Founder & CEO of Ujima**

This campaign officially launches **Juneteenth 2025**, grounding the celebration in a deeper truth: freedom without safety isn't freedom at all. Through storytelling, digital activations, and media outreach, Ujima aims to build a powerful ecosystem of donors, advocates, and changemakers ready to fund the future.

The launch also marks a strategic partnership with Vincent Strategies, signaling a public commitment to longevity and collective power. This is more than a fundraiser—it's a movement rooted in accountability, community care, and the belief that culturally specific organizations must not only survive but thrive.

"For the past ten years, with bipartisan Congressional support, Ujima has been vital in the efforts to combat violence against Black women and girls nationwide. Vincent Strategies is honored to partner with Ujima on its philanthropy campaign to ensure this outstanding nonprofit can continue its life-changing work to build safer communities for Black women and families.”—**Gregory J. Vincent, CEO, Vincent Strategies**

To interview **Karma Cottman** (Ujima Founder & CEO) and/or **Danielle Lewis** (Ujima Communications Director) and for more information on **Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community's** latest giving initiative kicking off **Juneteenth 2025**, please contact Danielle Lewis at [Dlewis@ujimacommunity.org](mailto:Dlewis@ujimacommunity.org).

Visit <https://ujimacommunity.org> to see Ujima's very important work in action. To donate, visit <https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/funding-the-future>

### **About Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community**

Established in 2015, **Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community**, addresses the pervasive issues of sexual assault and domestic and community violence within the Black Community.

We champion the empowerment and resilience of Black women and girls.

**Ujima serves as a resource to:**

- Survivors of violence
- Advocates and service providers
- The community at large

**What's in a name?**

Rooted in the profound ethos of the third principle of Kwanzaa, Ujima embodies the commitment to ‘collective work and responsibility’. As an organization, we embrace this guiding principle, recognizing its transformative power to mobilize and uplift our communities from within.

Through our research, policy, programming, and engagement efforts, we harness the power of collective action to drive meaningful change.

**Our mission**

Ujima’s mission is to inspire and support the Black community in responding to and preventing domestic and community violence and sexual assault.

With a focus on collective responsibility and shared prosperity, we strive to cultivate a world where Black women and girls thrive.

We pursue this mission by leveraging our resources, expertise, and networks to build a brighter future for generations to come.

**Our vision**

**Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community** aspires to create a future where Black Women and Girls are celebrated and live free from violence.

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