

400 YEARS OF INEQUITY

November 8-9 | Cleveland Public Auditorium

A Call to Action

Join us **November 8th-9th, 2019**, as leading community organizations convene an action summit in Cleveland, Ohio to call out racism as a public health crisis.

400 years ago, the first ship containing enslaved Africans arrived in British North America. Since then, systems and institutions in America have provided preferential opportunity to some citizens while simultaneously subjecting people of African ancestry to hardship and disadvantage. This opportunity imbalance has subjected African Americans to disproportionately high rates of homelessness, incarceration, economic hardship, poor health outcomes, marginalized communities and under-resourced educational institutions. These disparities are and have always been the result of racism, not race.

The urgency to end this uniquely American crisis has never been more pressing. YWCA Greater Cleveland and First Year Cleveland are gathering a powerful and inclusive coalition to memorialize the legacy of slavery, connect that history to modern racial inequities, and equip attendees with the knowledge, motivation and tools to move local governments to take resolute actions against racism.

Declaring racism as a public health crisis is an official pathway for government to address the negative economic, cultural, emotional and physical hardship brought on by 400 years of slavery and oppression. When local governments declare a public health crisis, they are then able to direct tangible human and capital resources to resolving the crisis.

We must act.

This national summit will feature skills-building and educational breakout sessions, powerful performances and exhibits, and a unique opportunity to connect with people who share a commitment to equity and justice.

The **400 Years of Inequity Action Summit** will feature keynote presentations by renowned experts, including:

- **Isabel Wilkerson:** Pulitzer-winning journalist and author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*
- **John A. Powell:** Director of the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California Berkeley
- **Harriet Washington:** Award-winning medical writer and author of *Medical Apartheid*, the first social history of medical research with African Americans
- **Dr. Darrick Hamilton, PhD:** Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity
- **Stacey Stewart:** President and CEO, March of Dimes
- **Dr. Gail Christopher:** Award winning social change agent and former Senior Advisor and Vice President of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation

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