Foundation’s billboards rain on BWW parade

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Group stands by its anti-abortion message

Black Women for Wellness (BWW)—a nonprofit organization committed to the well being of women and girls by building healthy communities through health education, empowerment and advocacy—joined with others nationally and locally last week to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. However, what was intended to be a day of festivities complete with parades and fellowship, was disrupted (at least for BWW), when they identified what founder Janette Robinson Flint called “a racist and divisive campaign that objectifies Black children, charges Black women with genocide, and utilizes Black men as pawns in a political play for power.”

The campaign that Flint was referring to is depicted on billboards sponsored by the Radiance Foundation and Issues4Life that were plastered along Martin Luther King Boulevard—on King Day nonetheless—that read, “Black Children Are an Endangered Species,” with the face of a beautiful African American child accompanying the message.

“African American children are not comparable to bald eagles, blue whales, California condors, and other animals on the endangered species list. A society that does not value the lives of Black children, women and men is the greatest threat to our community. Substandard housing, unchecked police power that murders with impunity and jails with gusto, disparities in health care, pay, and life expectancy, are the true threats to the survival of healthy, stable Black families and communities,” said Flint, who accused the billboard ads of dehumanizing Black babies.

BWW believes that the Radiance Foundation is insinuating that Black women are to blame for genocide through abortion, and instead of pushing for human rights among all people they are pushing for the subjugation of Black women’s autonomy over their bodies.

“It is reprehensible that someone would use Black children as a tool to attack Black women for political purposes,” said Flint. “Black women stand at the intersection of racism and sexism in this country and we face the pain of living at this crossroads everyday.”

The Radiance Foundation and its partnering organizations deny that their campaign is racist and claim that they decry the killing of any innocent unborn life. “No matter the race or ethnicity, abortion is a tragedy and an unnecessary violent conclusion to life that is unplanned,” the organization said on its website.
According to the CDC, the Black abortion rate is three times the White abortion rate (up to five times the rate, according to pro-abortion think tank Guttmacher), and two times that of all other races combined. It also stated that African Americans make up 38.5 percent of all abortions nationwide, even though Blacks comprise only 13 percent of the population.

“This is not a Black versus White issue,” according to Radiance Foundation literature. “This is a human issue. With so many resources available to women and men facing unexpected pregnancies, and incredible life-affirming options available like parenthood and adoption, there’s no reason why anyone (98 percent of cases are due to personal choice, not medical/health reasons) has to resort to destruction by abortion.”

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  The Passion for Christ Movement (P4CM) is a grassroots ministry dedicated to helping Los Angeles County at-risk youth develop life skills and spiritual direction. The members of the movement are concerned with impacting the present generation to create a better future, and they offer their services to the community voluntarily.

  P4CM has shared the gospel with people all over the world through their Internet testimonials and Ex-shirt campaign which is still going.

- **Black Women for Wellness Conference offers invaluable info for the community** -

  Black Women for Wellness (BWW), in partnership with the California Family Health Council and L.A. Care Health Plan recently held Respect Conference: Integrity and Inclusion of African Americans in Health Care, a policy briefing and publication release at the California African American Museum.

  The conference provided a space to address the historical and contemporary affects of health care systems and laws on African American women.

- **The last King walks away from SCLC** -

  Bernice Albertine King finally ended the long standoff with the organization her father helped found by refusing to become its next president.

  Her decision continues to leave rudderless the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which has been beset with quarrels and infighting.

- **The band marches on** -

  Westchester High School was among the many schools, community bands and drill teams that participated in the annual Los Angeles Martin Luther King Day Parade held Monday. Following the parade, organizers featured a festival in Leimert Park.

- **Thousands attend Kingdom Day Parade in South L.A.** -

  LOS ANGELES, Calif.—Thousands of people lined the streets of South Los Angeles for the 26th annual Kingdom Day Parade, themed “Working together, we can make the dream come true.”

  More than 3,000 participants, including marching bands, drill teams, dance groups and equestrian units, took part in Southern California’s largest King Day observance.