



SISTA SISTA

Youth Summit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fourth Annual Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit Brings Together Michaela Angela Davis, Beverly Bond, Hot 97's K. Foxx, Toni Blackman's Rhyme Like a Girl, Geneva S. Thomas, Sil Lai Abrams and Many More To "Unravel Stories and Create New Possibilities" with Young Women of Color

The Gye Nyame Empowerment Project Will Host Over One Hundred High School Girls of Color For A Day of Workshops and Entertainment for Its Fourth Annual Conference Celebrating Women's History Month

New York, NY (March 1, 2011) — On Saturday, March 12th, the Gye Nyame (pronounced Jean-Yuh-Me) Empowerment Project (GNEP), a New York-based non-profit, will, for its fourth year, bring together approximately 125 high school girls from throughout the New York City area to participate in a full-day empowerment Summit. GNEP is committed to the education, empowerment, and advancement of people of color. Its annual Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit will bring together high school girls of color to participate in interactive and engaging discussions, workshops, and live entertainment – all of which emphasize personal development, self love and the representation of the Black woman. Presenters and speakers include: **Black Girls Rock! Founder Beverly Bond, social critic Michaela Angela Davis, empowerment and relationship specialist Sil Lai Abrams, HBO Award Winning documentarian Stacy Muhammad, wellness entrepreneur Queen Afua, hip hop ambassador Toni Blackman, writer and cultural critic Geneva S. Thomas, author Kerika Fields** and many more. This year's conference will also present distinguishing awards to Black Girls Rock!, GEMS, and a graduating high school senior.

This marks the fourth consecutive year that GNEP's grassroots efforts have drawn dynamic leaders to address its one hundred plus high school aged girls from throughout the New York City area. It originally began as a vision of Akua Soadwa during her undergraduate years at Mount Holyoke College. Founded in 2007, Akua has been able to bring her idea into fruition with limited resources, grassroots tactics, and the devoted help of friends, family and supporters. The overwhelming majority of the summit's funding is a result of personal requests and small donor campaigns driven by a volunteer-based planning committee and numerous community supporters and affiliates.

The fourth Annual Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit will open with a West African Dance session, followed by the following workshops: Beauty in the 21st Century, Analog Girl in A Digital World, Forgiveness, Girl Like Me, Hidden Messages in the Media, Self-Love and Unraveling Stories. The day will also include an awards ceremony, an empowerment table, gratitude card making and an opportunity for attendees to record the Stories they are seeking to overcome in order to tap into their full potential. Entertainment will be provided by Toni Blackman's Rhyme Like A Girl program, Stephcynie Curry, Jazmine "Jazzy" Bailey and more.

"This year's summit reflects the tremendous growth of the Gye Nyame Empowerment Project and the continual impact we've had on New York area high school girls," said 29-year old GNEP Founder Akua Soadwa. "We are thrilled to introduce a scholarship and other awards as we acknowledge girls and women of color who are empowering others and impacting the community in a positive way."

For the first time, GNEP will present a series of awards and scholarships to notable organizations and summit participants. The **Strength, Courage and Wisdom Award** will be presented to **GEMS**, a girls mentoring program

committed to empowering girls to develop the strength, courage and wisdom needed to forgive themselves for past choices and to stand confidently in the new possibilities of today. **GEMS** will be gifted with a **Forgiveness Dress** that was collectively created by last year's Youth Summit participants and designed by **BORN** (formerly Born as a Raggamuffin). The **My Sister's Keeper Award** will be presented to **Black Girls Rock!** Founder **Beverly Bond** for the organizations commitment to providing girls with opportunities and access to resources that otherwise would not have been available to them. The **Andrea D. Brown Book Scholarship** in the amount of \$1,000 dollars will be awarded to a high school senior attending a four year accredited college or university.

The Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit is free of charge and open to all teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 17 (pre-registration is required). The Summit will be held at St. Francis College located at 180 Remsen Street in downtown Brooklyn, NY. The day will begin promptly at 9:00am and conclude at 6:45pm. Breakfast, lunch, snacks and giveaways will be provided. For more information, or to register for the Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit (limited space remaining), please email S2youthsummit@gmail.com or visit www.EmpowerMeGNEP.org/s2s to register online.

Click the links below for previous Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit footage and the "Unraveling Stories, Creating New Possibilities" viral video campaigns:

Passion

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkk4EflngME>

Forgiveness

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANWj5BnG11s>

Rejection

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sybcHZ8BkBQ>

Sharing Feelings

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l85aitaqrmY>

Video Footage from the 2010 Sista-2-Sista Youth Summit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-2Y99zEUM4>

For all press interviews, credentials, and general media inquiries please contact:

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About the GYE NYAME Empowerment Project

The Gye Nyame Empowerment Project (GNEP), pronounced "jean-yuh me", is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization dedicated to recognizing, examining, and celebrating issues pertaining to people of color. GNEP was officially incorporated in 2007 with the mission of providing events and programs that boost the confidence and self-esteem of those residing in underserved communities. GNEP empowers individuals, families, and communities to reach their full potential through the use of conferences, workshops, on-going programs, and other educational and social mediums. For more information on GNEP, please visit www.EmpowerMeGNEP.org.

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