



**YWCA Metropolitan Chicago**  
***Organizational Statement on the Selection of U.S. Senator Kamala Harris as  
Candidate for Vice President of the United States***

In exactly two weeks, on August 26, we will mark 100 years since the adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote. Yesterday's selection of Senator Kamala Harris as the vice presidential candidate for one of the major parties will make the commemoration of this day that much sweeter and even more meaningful.

Senator Harris is not the first woman vice presidential candidate. That honor goes to Geraldine Ferraro, whose father, like Senator Harris', was an immigrant. But Senator Harris is the first woman of color to be selected. She is Black and she is South Asian. Both of her parents were immigrants, coming to the U.S. from India and Jamaica.

Senator Harris' selection acknowledges the special role that women of color and immigrant women have played in the building of our nation. These women worked tirelessly for centuries, as slaves and in low wage grueling jobs. Even today, during this COVID-19 pandemic, these are the women we find disproportionately on the front lines, putting themselves at risk to support their families and keep our nation functioning.

Whether Senator Harris becomes Vice President or not, the nomination of a woman of color and daughter of immigrants shows how far we have come as a nation. It affirms that despite obstacles and setbacks, we will continue to move forward. In an era when our country is so deeply divided on issues of race and immigration, it matters to have a candidate like Senator Harris who embodies all that America, and Americans, can be.

Senator Kamala Harris' selection is a nod to our Founding Fathers and the great seal of our nation that proclaims *E pluribus unum*. Out of many, one. And more importantly, it is a nod to the women who paved her way a century ago, especially the women of color of the suffragist movement who were forced to march in the rear.