

For Release Oct. 4, 2010

Contact: Patricia Russo: 203/972-1788 or 973/464-9274; Geeshap@hotmail.com
Teresa C. Younger: 860/240-844; Teresa.younger@cga.ct.gov

Women's Empowerment Summit

Urban League of Southern Connecticut to Convene Leaders on Oct. 26

STAMFORD – Distinguished advocates for women's empowerment are being called together for the Women's Empowerment Summit on Oct. 26, 2010 in Stamford by the Urban League of Southern Connecticut to discuss such critical topics as women's health, global human rights, philanthropy, career advancement, inter-generational responsibility and financial security. Participants will hear from international scholar and human rights activist Naomi Tutu, and human rights activist and author Kerri Kennedy, the executive director of Women's Campaign International. In addition to Kennedy and Tutu, noted women presenters include Caroline Clarke, host of *Black Enterprise Business Report*, and Carla Harris, managing director of Morgan Stanley, who will be a morning keynote speaker.

At the event, which is open to the public (www.ulsc.org), several renowned Connecticut women leaders will be honored, including U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, community activist, educator and volunteer Lillian Lewis, and Charlotte Suhler of the Fairfield County Fund for Women & Girls and a former Darien selectman. Each of the honorees has had a strong impact on the lives of women in urban communities and all are being recognized for their achievements in promoting opportunity for women. New Alliance Bank, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Covidien are co-sponsoring the event with the Urban League of Southern Connecticut (ULSC).

The ULSC enables African Americans and other minority groups to secure and sustain economic parity and self-reliance. Founded in 1969, the ULSC has helped residents of Greater Fairfield County improve their economic situation and, consequently, the security of their neighborhoods.

Both Naomi Tutu, a daughter of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Kerri Kennedy, a daughter of Robert Kennedy, are internationally recognized advocates for the self-empowerment of women. Participants will learn from them and the other presenters about the value such empowerment brings to the wider community.

According to Teresa Younger, executive director of the Connecticut General Assembly's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) and a member of the Women's Empowerment Summit planning committee, "Women's issues are family and community issues and affect us all – whether in education, business, the non-profit community, or government, where public policy is set. Unless women are empowered and taught how to use their voice to provide for themselves financially, educationally, and in healthy lifestyles, they, and their communities, cannot thrive."

The Women's Empowerment Summit will be held at Stamford Plaza Hotel & Conference Center from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, contact Patricia Russo, ULSC board member and event co-chair, at 203/972-12788; or Teresa C. Younger, PCSW executive director and event planning committee member, at 860/241-8441. To register, go to www.ulsc.org.