



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Make It Work Nevada Celebrates Ida B. Wells Day**

*A holiday in observance of journalist, anti-lynching activist and Pulitzer Prize winner, Ida B. Wells*

**Las Vegas, NV, July 16** - Make It Work Nevada will honor the legacy of teacher, journalist, NAACP co-founder, and anti-lynching activist, Ida B. Wells. Staff will be given a paid day off to take time to reflect on Wells' life and work.

Ida B. Wells was born into slavery on July 16, 1862. She was educated at Shaw University (now Rust College) and later attended Fisk University. After being forcibly removed from a first-class train ride she purchased, Wells sued the railroad company and won a \$500 settlement against them. The Tennessee Supreme Court overturned that decision which motivated Wells to begin writing and speaking out against the injustices Black people experienced.

In 1892, three of Wells' friends were lynched by a white mob so she began documenting the pervasive practice of lynching that was widespread across the South. The following year she published her examination of lynching in America in 'The Red Record.' By 1898 Wells had taken her anti-lynching campaign all the way to the White House with a protest in Washington D.C. Wells was also active in the women's suffrage movement and even made a bid for the Illinois state senate. In 2019, Wells was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for her outstanding and courageous reporting on the horrific and vicious violence against African Americans during the era of lynching.

"Ida B. Wells risked her life to tell the stories of the lynchings that were happening and she is the reason we know about the atrocities that occurred," said Executive Director Erika Washington. "It's really important that as we talk about history we not forget the accomplishments of Black women. With no holidays that honor Black women we're doing a disservice to our history, Make It Work Nevada will be leading the cause for a Black woman holiday."

Make It Work Nevada is a local non-profit that works to organize Black women and women of color around economic issues such as affordable childcare, paid family leave, paid sick days

and pay equity, in addition to racial and reproductive justice. Executive Director, Erika Washington is using the organization's platform to lift up the accomplishments of women and Black women in civil rights and social justice movements.

Ida B. Wells Day, a commemorative holiday at Make It Work Nevada, takes place on Wells birthday, July 16. Offices will be closed Friday, July 17 in observance.

**About Make It Work Nevada:** *Make It Work Nevada is a policy driven organization shifting the landscape of our community through advocacy and education to support the long-term health and vitality of Black families.*

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