For Immediate Release: November 21, 2024
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Kimberlé Crenshaw Honored with Humanitarian of The Year Award at the 2024 *EBONY* Power 100 Gala

National – Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw, a trailblazer in the fight for social justice, was honored with the **Humanitarian of the Year Award** at this year's prestigious **EBONY Power 100 Gala**, held at Nya Studios in Los Angeles. The *EBONY* Power 100 celebrated the most powerful changemakers of 2024, including *Icon of the Year*, Vice President Kamala Harris; *People's Choice Award* recipient, Da'Vine Joy Randolph; *Global Visionary of the Year,* Usher; *Pathbreaker of the Year*, Cynthia Erivo; and *Entrepreneur of the Year,* Fawn Weaver, founder of Uncle Nearest Whiskey. The event highlighted the remarkable contributions of individuals redefining Black culture and shaping a brighter future for their communities.

Recognized for her visionary leadership and unyielding dedication to social justice, education, and community development, Karen Bass, mayor of Los Angeles, lauded Professor Crenshaw as "a brilliant scholar who has over thirty years of advocacy under her belt, from working on the Anita Hill case in 1991 to her historic report in 2015 — *#SayHerName: Resisting Police Brutality Against Black Women.*"

Bass cited Crenshaw's work as foundational in critical race theory and intersectionality — the latter a term she coined to describe the ways in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other. Mayor Bass noted that efforts to ban Crenshaw's work in several states represents just how powerful her frameworks are. "Otherwise, they wouldn't seek to ban them," Mayor Bass concluded to applause from the crowd.



Photo credit: Arnold Turner/Getty Images for EBONY

As Professor Crenshaw accepted her award, she noted how foundational Ebony magazine had been in providing generations of African Americans with a view of themselves through its rich archive of stories, photos and meditations on Black life. Crenshaw tapped widespread concerns about the future of Black wellbeing in the coming years, referring to an earlier historical period in which African American interests were sacrificed to reconcile lingering bitterness about the Civil War. Warning that those who don't know their history are bound to repeat it, Crenshaw emphasized the role of Ebony and other Black institutions as conveyors of a history that too many are trying to silence.

"I don't take lightly what it means to receive this award from *EBONY* during a time in which speaking truths like these is becoming, once again, hazardous. And yet, we stand in the shadow of those who came before, who were not willing to give up on beliefs that we deserved every single thing we were demanding, those who were unwilling to stop talking, stop striving, stop moving even when the going got tougher than tough. And believe me, we will need the strength of those who passed the baton to us in the days ahead. And especially in this age of disinformation, we will need to value institutions like *EBONY* that have long reflected our own images and interests back to us."

As the assembled guests interrupted her acceptance with applause, Crenshaw concluded by calling upon her audience to bring the critical stories of Black history to the nation in this time of rampant censorship and erasure.

"In the end, if we are able to pass on our precious legacy to future generations, like my parents passed on to me, and theirs to them, it will be our institutions — our families, our media, our colleges, our organizations and our churches — that loved us enough to honor our unique story, our voice, our creativity, and our wisdom. It is this that will carry us — and our nation — through."

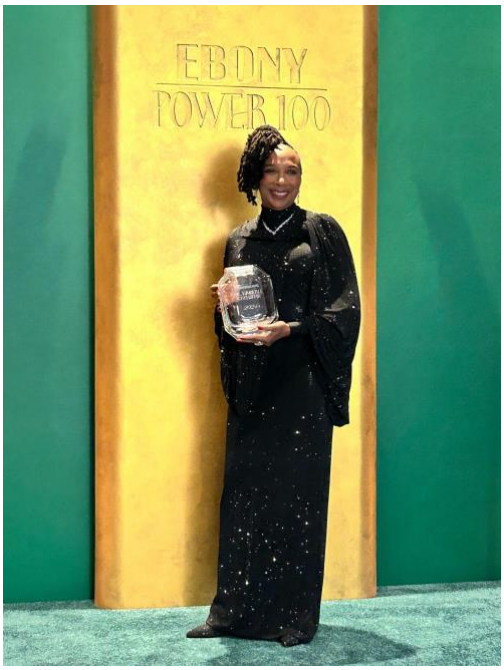


Photo credit: The African American Policy Forum

Professor Crenshaw joins an extraordinary lineup of honorees who exemplify Black excellence, innovation, and impact. Her thought-provoking work, including co-founding the **African American Policy Forum** and spearheading initiatives like the **#SayHerName** campaign has reshaped the national discourse on race, gender, and systemic inequality. To learn more about Professor Crenshaw's work at the African American Policy Forum, go to www.aapf.org

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African American Policy Forum:
The African American Policy Forum (AAPF) is a social justice think tank that utilizes new ideas and innovative perspectives to transform public discourse and policy on race and social justice concerns. We bring together academics, policymakers, artists, politicians, activists, and stakeholders to promote frameworks and strategies that address a vision of racial justice that embraces the intersections of race, gender, class, and the array of barriers that serve to disempower those who are marginalized in society. We are dedicated to advancing and expanding racial justice, gender equality, and the indivisibility of all human rights. Visit www.aapf.org to learn more.