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Women Creating Change Announces Appointment of Na'ilah Amaru and Laura Edidin to New Leadership Roles

—As Vice President of Policy, Advocacy & Government Relations and Senior Vice President of Programs & Partnerships, Amaru and Edidin will expand and deepen WCC's impact—

(New York, N.Y.) — Today, [Women Creating Change \(WCC\)](#) announces the appointment of Na'ilah Amaru and Laura Edidin to two new key leadership positions within the 109-year-old nonprofit that supports civic engagement among historically disenfranchised women.

Na'ilah Amaru, Vice President, Policy, Advocacy & Government Relations, brings over 20 years of experience as a nationally recognized advocacy and policy strategist in the government and nonprofit sectors. **Laura Edidin, Senior Vice President of Programs and Partnerships**, is a pioneering advocate with more than 25 years of experience working at the intersection of racial justice, gender equality, and economic justice.

In her new role, Ms. Amaru will lead WCC's public policy and government relations efforts to advance gender and racial equity, enhance community conditions, and create a more just and equitable New York City. Previously, Ms. Amaru held key roles within direct service and advocacy nonprofits, served as Policy Advisor to former Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Legislative Aide to U.S. Congressman John Lewis, Executive Director of the New York City Council's Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus, and has spearheaded winning electoral and issue campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels. In addition to her civic leadership, she is a distinguished U.S. Army veteran and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for exemplary service in Iraq.

"I am excited to contribute my expertise for building grassroots governing power among women and intersecting identities to advance WCC's mission," says Ms. Amaru. "Together, we will work towards creating a more just and equitable New York City where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

Ms. Amaru holds three master's degrees in Public Administration and Policy Analysis from The University of Texas at San Antonio, in Public Policy and Non-Profit Management from Georgia State University, and in Urban Affairs and Urban Planning from New York City's Hunter College. She is currently a PhD student in political science at the CUNY Graduate Center, with a research focus on political participation, governing coalitions, and agenda-setting.

In her new role, Ms. Edidin will shape and execute WCC's programmatic vision, including [Civic](#)

[Matters](#), which brings together women who have faced barriers to civic participation to learn, to make their voices heard, and to create change. She will also forge and nurture critical partnerships across various sectors. Ms. Edidin's diverse career includes roles as Chief Special Counsel for Ethics, Risk and Compliance in the Office of the Governor of New York, the nationally recognized Chief of the Human Trafficking Unit in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, the founding Director of Legal Services for the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP), the country's largest crime victim agency for LGBTQ and HIV-affected crime victims, and the founding Chief of the Administrative Prosecution Unit at the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board, the first such unit in the country empowered to prosecute police officers for misconduct. Ms. Edidin is also a former federal prosecutor. While in private practice, she represented survivors of sexual harassment and assault seeking to hold their abusers accountable.

"I am honored to join WCC in its critical work amplifying women's voices and increasing our collective political power across New York City," says Ms. Edidin. "I have dedicated my career to advancing justice and equity for women, people of color and the LGBTQ community. I am excited to scale up those efforts at WCC to affect systemic change."

Ms. Edidin holds a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and a B.A. *cum laude* from Tufts University. Active in her community, she is a member of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, a grassroots movement promoting human rights and building relationships between Muslim and Jewish women.

"The appointments of Na'ilah Amaru and Laura Edidin underscores WCC's commitment to driving positive change for women in New York City," says **WCC President & CEO Sharon Sewell-Fairman**. "Their connections, experience, and expertise will expand the impact of WCC's education, skill-building, and direct action initiatives for women who have been historically marginalized. I could not be more proud to welcome them to our team. With their passion and skills, WCC will reshape what civic engagement can look like in New York City. "

About Women Creating Change:

Women Creating Change (formerly Women's City Club of New York) was founded in 1915 as a nonprofit, non-partisan, activist organization dedicated to advancing the rights of women to shape the future of New York City. Today, Women Creating Change is an inclusive community that partners with stakeholders and organizations with a focus on underserved women to develop and strengthen the skills and resources needed to effectively identify the issues that matter to them most and advocate for themselves and New York's diverse communities. Its vision is a more just and equitable New York City where all women are civically engaged.

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