

Open Letter to D.L. Hughley:

Mr. D.L. Hughley,

In the name of “Freedom of Speech”, you have insisted on not apologizing for your disparaging remarks about the women of Rutgers University basketball team, women who represent a nation of our mothers & daughters. I too, believe in your right to “freedom of speech”... I also believe there are times when men must choose their words carefully, and there are times when men must honor their women, especially when their women are fighting for their respect, dignity, and their lives... and there are times when not doing so is never funny.

I believe that deep within your heart, you know it was a mistake to utter those damaging words, certainly ill-advised... everybody makes mistakes, even comedians... and I believe you do want to apologize. What I’ve learned is that a good sincere apology goes a long way in advancing family relationships. A good apology keeps others engaged and allows for “give & take” from both sides to resolve issues that really matter, and your apology will make a bigger, more important statement for America’s women, than your silence and a tired & worn proclamation of “freedom of speech”.

And so, with respect, from one man to another, I extend my request for your public apology to America’s women. Richards apologized whether he wanted to or not, Imus apologized whether he wanted to or not, and I believe, Mr. D.L. Hughley, it is time for you, also, to apologize. And just as you used one of the largest & brightest stages on television, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, to utter your remarks, America’s Women will be expecting the same large & bright stage for your apology... I’m sure Jay Leno won’t mind.

The stage is set for you, Mr. Hughley, to initiate change, and spark positive dialogue, not about freedom of speech, but for America’s Women... your grandmother, your mother, your wife, your daughter, and America’s 152 million women, are watching & waiting, for you to show yourself as a man who values & honors women everywhere... the stage is set.

Sincerely, Keith G. Wright