

From the Editor.

T

he recent controversy surrounding Prince William County Democratic nominee Muhammad Sufiyan “Sef” Casim is not simply a story about old social media posts resurfacing. It is a reminder that anti-Blackness still shows up in public life as something people expect others, especially the Black community, to excuse, minimize, or move past. According to WJLA, the posts included racist and misogynistic language, prompting bipartisan calls for Casim to withdraw, including local leaders from the General Assembly and the Prince William County Board of Supervisors.

For Black women, this kind of moment carries a particular weight. Anti-Blackness does not reach us in isolation. It often arrives intertwined with sexism, disparagement, and the expectation that we will endure all of it without protest. Scholar Moya Bailey coined the term misogynoir to describe the specific anti-Black misogyny Black women experience. She explains it as more than racism plus sexism - it is a uniquely harmful convergence of both.

That is why infractions like that of Casim cannot be handled as isolated incidents. These incidents reinforce a civic culture in which Black women are too often left to do the all of the work: naming the harm, explaining why it matters, absorbing the backlash, and still being expected to endure it all with grace. Even when Black women are correct, we are often treated as if our refusal to tolerate disrespect is the central issue.

But let me be clear: calling out anti-Blackness is not divisive. It is responsible. Refusing to normalize racist and misogynistic language is not political grandstanding. It is a basic tenet of human decency. Public leadership requires more than ambition. It requires wisdom, character, and a clear understanding that words and decisions carry consequence. Black women know this deeply because we are too often left to endure the harm caused by leaders who not only fail to recognize the need for policies that protect us, but also perpetuate the attitudes and environments that make hostility toward us easier to sustain.

This moment should remind us that anti-Blackness is not harmless, and it is never just rhetoric. It shapes who feels safe, who feels respected, and who is expected to bear insult in silence. Black women deserve better than that, and so do our communities.

In Black,

Alpha Woolen



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