

**Excerpt from “Million Man March: A View from the Left – Interview with Don Rojas” by Steve Bloom (December 6, 1995)**

I vehemently opposed the exclusion of women and I think that was one of the most reactionary aspects of the march...No one who shares these concerns should be excluded or should exclude themselves from this march. Indeed, Black men should encourage their wives, mothers, daughters and sisters to absent themselves from their jobs, schools, and shopping malls and present themselves in Washington to stand with their men in a forceful demonstration of Black unity and solidarity in these critical times. Now is not the time for Black women to stay at home and pray on Farrakhan's anointed 'Holy Day'.

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Angela Davis, the most prominent opponent of the march among Black female activists, came out at a press conference in New York and very strongly denounced it. She got support from several Black feminists around the country.

But there were other prominent, and not so prominent, Black women in the NY-Baltimore-Washington D.C. area, and across the country as well, who did express critical support for the march. Some of them actively participated in organisational work leading up to it.

...

The most powerful part was where he said that white supremacy must die in order for humanity to live. The bourgeois media ... [interpreted this as] his old anti-white racism ... which of course is nonsense. A critique of white supremacy does not translate into anti-white racism.

Farrakhan's emphasis on self-help, self-improvement, self-reliance, all solid values in themselves, are not necessarily an antidote to racial and social inequality. Inequality is systematic. In order to destroy the structures of inequality we need a broad based mass movement that challenges the power structure.

SOURCE: Steve Bloom, “Million Man March: A View from the Left – Interview with Don Rojas,” *Independent Politics*, December 6, 1995. Available online at <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/220.html>. Last Accessed December 5, 2008.