



**Baltimore Association of Black Journalists official statement on  
WJZ-TV anchor Mary Bubala's racist and sexist question**

It is with great concern that the [Baltimore Association of Black Journalists](#) (BABJ) responds to the controversy surrounding the [racist and sexist question](#) by WJZ-TV anchor Mary Bubala to Loyola College professor and WEEA-FM host Dr. Kaye Wise Whitehead on May 2, 2019.

*"The question I have for you. We have had three female African-American mayors in a row. They were all passionate public servants. Two resigned though. Is it a signal that a different kind of leadership is needed to move Baltimore City forward?"*

This question implies race and gender are qualifiers in one's ability to lead while also demonizing African-Americans and women as poor leaders. We feel certain Bubala would not have asked this same question of white male leadership. Moreover, the implicit bias present in Bubala's interview should be addressed company-wide at WJZ-TV, with a concerted effort to avoid marginalizing by race and gender, particularly in a city whose population reflects its leadership demographics.

While Bubala [apologized with a tweet May 3](#), there was no acknowledgement of the gaffe or apology on-air by her, WJZ-TV or CBS. This is unacceptable since the apology should be administered in the same fashion that the damaging question was delivered. Also Bubala's question, apology, cultural disconnect and gender insensitivity lead to a growing question about WJZ's commitment to responsible journalism.

**WJZ-TV it is your responsibility to administer this apology on-air.**

April 25, 2019 WJZ-TV posted a story online, "Where is Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh?" that cited sources saying Pugh fled the state. Although that false report was later corrected, the correction did not run on the air, and [this stirs additional concerns](#) about WJZ-TV's news judgement.

When will [CBS](#) owned and operated station WJZ-TV address these factual issues plus the race and gender insensitives presented by Mary Bubala?

BABJ is concerned for the well-being of the Baltimore Black community as well as the African-Americans working alongside Bubala in the WJZ-TV newsroom. Baltimore's Black community and those Black employees deserve better.

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