



BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE

EDUCATION, POLICING AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND INITIATIVES

Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit
Advisory Committee Meeting
May 9, 2022

Fareeda Adam
Staff Lawyer
Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC)

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

About BLAC

Vision and Mandate

Manifestations of Anti-Black Racism

School-to-Prison Pipeline

Collective of Child Welfare Survivors
(CCWS)

Our System. Our Children. Our
Responsibility.

What can we do?



BLACK LEGAL ACTION CENTRE

We work to combat individual and systemic

ABR in:

- Housing
- Education Law
- Human Rights
- Employment
- Prison Law
- Social Assistance

Our vision is a society where anti-Black racism is named and meaningfully addressed; where the humanity and dignity of Black people are centred; where the laws and the legal system are reflective of the real experiences of Black people; and where racial equity and full participation of all Black people in society is achieved.

INTAKE PROCESS

- Phone or email
 - 1-877-736-9406; 1-800-855-0511 (TTY)
 - info@blacklegalactioncentre.ca
- **Financial Eligibility.**
- Lawyers to call back in 2 business days
- Referrals and legal information
- Support persons are welcome

ANTI-BLACK RACISM

Anti-Black Racism is defined as policies and practices rooted in Canadian institutions such as, education, health care, and justice that mirror and reinforce beliefs, attitudes, prejudice, stereotyping and/or discrimination towards people of Black-African descent.

HOW DOES ABR
MANIFEST?

MANIFESTATIONS OF ANTI-BLACK RACISM (ABR) IN SYSTEMS

- Policing (Racial profiling (over and under policing)
- Bail system (Over-reliance on sureties; conditions; pleas)
- Sentencing (Lack of recognition of ABR at sentencing)
- Prison Conditions (Jobs, Parole, etc.)
- Child Welfare System (Rates of apprehension)
- Education System (discipline, pipeline)
- Employment (rates)
- Immigration System

THE ISSUES:

- Police are more likely to stop, detain and search Black people.
- Police are more likely to charge Black people.
- Police are more likely to arrest Black people.
- Police are more likely to use force against, seriously injure and kill Black people.

OHRC reports 2018 (Collective Impact) & 2020 (Disparate Impact))



A Collective Impact: Interim report on the inquiry into racial profiling and racial discrimination of Black persons by the Toronto Police Service

“A Black person in Toronto was nearly 20 times more likely than a White person to be involved in a fatal shooting by the Toronto Police Service”



arrest toronto



All

News

Images

Maps

Shopping

More

Settings

Tools

Collections SafeSearch



police



somali



bambino



woman



man

g20



k money



michael gibson

mugshots

ontario most want



Toronto police arrest dozens in ...
ctvnews.ca



Toronto police - it's your civic duty ...
nowtoronto.com



Toronto police arrest 4 men in human ...
globalnews.ca



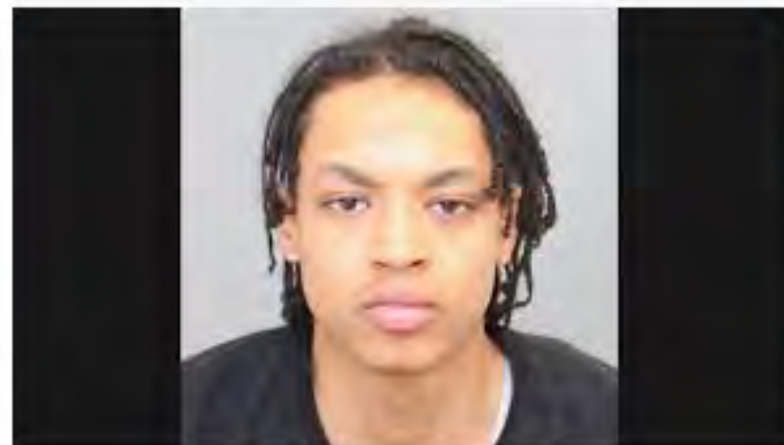
Toronto police arrest more than 50 in ...
theglobeandmail.com



Police arrest nearly 70 people in ...
cbc.ca



Toronto police arrest two men, seeking ...
thestar.com



Toronto police arrest 3 men after B.C ...
cp24.com



gang arrests target rival Sick Thugz ...
thespec.com



Toronto police arrest man i...
thestar.com



Police make arrest in Toronto ...
ctvnews.ca

CHILD WELFARE

African Canadian community
representing 40.8% of children in
care, yet only 8.5% of the Toronto
population

Toronto Children's Aid Society, 2016

EDUCATION

'I get nightmares': How racial violence in high schools is taking a mental toll on students



Canadian schools have high levels of both violent and racist attacks, CBC News survey shows



[Joyita Sengupta](#) · CBC News · Posted: Oct 31, 2019 4:00 AM ET | Last Updated: October 31



EDUCATION SYSTEM

- 11% of students in the TDSB self-identified Black
 - 34% of all students expelled self-identified as Black
-
- Teacher Treatment
 - School Suspension Practices
 - Use of Police by School Authorities
 - Police Treatment at School



*Zheng, S. (2019). Caring and safe schools report 2017-18 . Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Toronto District School Board
www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/Caring%20and%20Safe%20Schools%20Report%202017-18%2C%20TDSB%2C%20Final_April%202019.pdf

**<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-safe-schools-act-school-discipline-and-discrimination/vii-disproportionate-impact-ontario>

LINKS TO JUSTICE PROJECT

BLAC lead a province-wide research and advocacy initiative on anti-Black racism and oppression in our educational and justice systems.

The Links to Justice project is an initiative focused on looking at the experiences of Black families and youth in relation to the School-to-Prison-Pipeline. We are connecting with the Black community across Ontario to provide spaces for mutual learning, increase access to resources and to advocate for meaningful change and policy reform within our justice and educational systems.



Do you identify as an African, Caribbean Black youth?

Calling all youth who have experienced anti-Black racism in the education and/or the justice system.

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED!



We want to hear from you!

The Links to Justice Research & Advocacy Initiative is looking to engage with the Black community. [CLICK HERE](#) to share your stories, experiences, and recommendations.

SCHOOL-TO-PRISON

Through disciplinary policies and practices, teachers and administrators criminalize children, and push students out of schools, and into direct contact with law enforcement and the criminal justice system



The School To Prison Pipeline | Trailer



Share

THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE



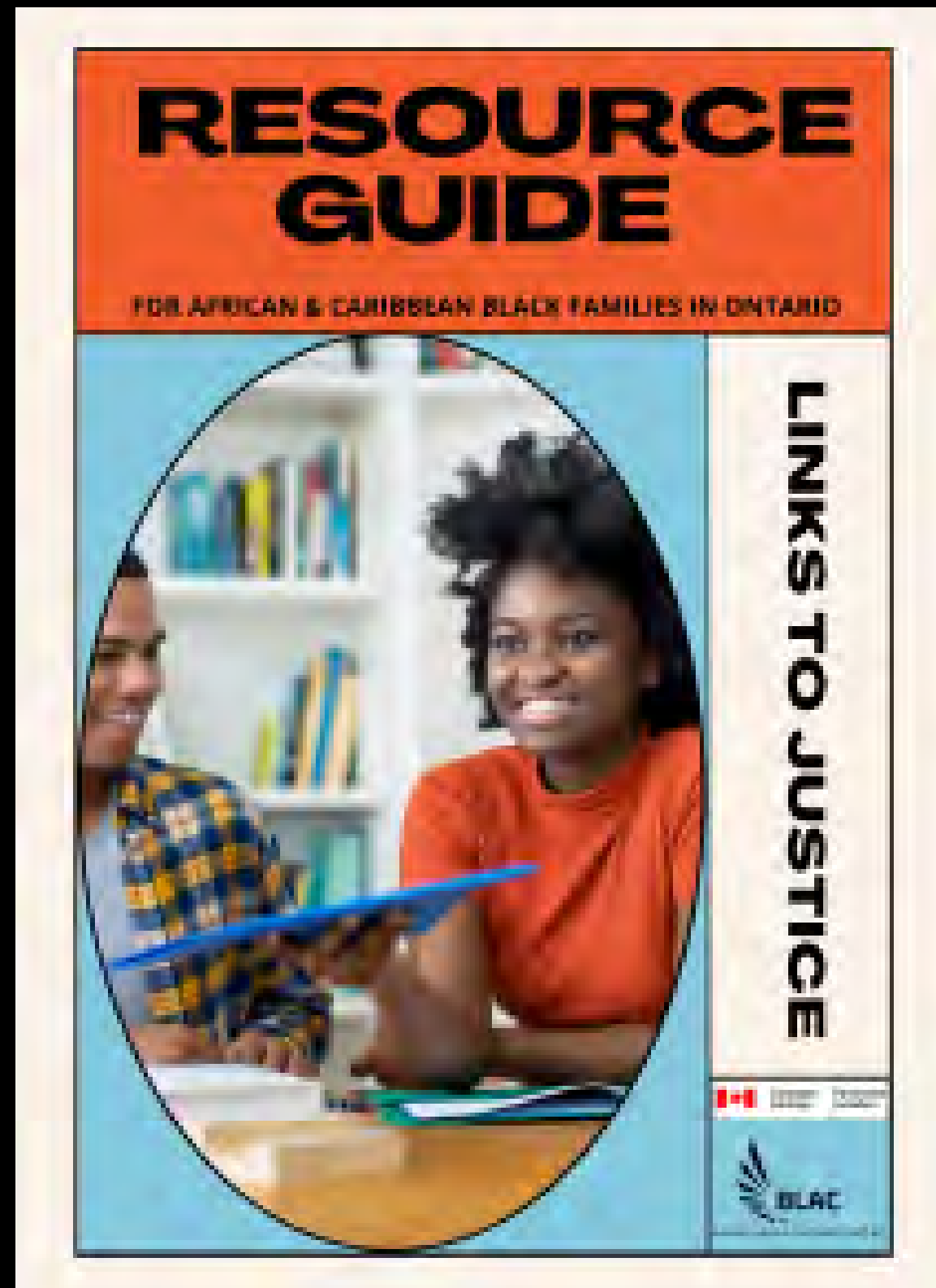
IN ONTARIO

Watch on  YouTube

RESOURCE GUIDE

Resources by region:

- Durham Region
- Peel Region
- York Region
- Hamilton
- London
- Ottawa
- Toronto
- Windsor



RECOMMENDATIONS

Create a nurturing school and classroom atmosphere that ensures that schools and educators understand the needs of Black students and meaningfully connect with them to foster a sense of belonging and equity in students' academic outcomes. Failure to ensure there is equity in their overall success will further perpetuate a continued downward spiral of Black students' success and overall well-being.

Advance ongoing research and educational reform to reduce the rate of dropout among Black youth, eliminate discriminatory school practices, and develop targeted interventions to help keep Black students in schools and engaged.

RECOMMENDATIONS...

Find more meaningful ways to discipline students instead of engaging in subjective suspension and expulsion practices that are often inequitable and more punitive for Black students.

Enhance equity in hiring practices across systems and school levels to ensure there are more Black and racialized educators, school, and systems leaders.

Parents and families should:

Develop constructive relationships with their child's school i.e., PTA so that they are knowledgeable about school policies, expectations, and procedures so that they are better equipped to advocate for their child and navigate the school system.

COLLECTIVE OF CHILD WELFARE SURVIVORS

BLAC is in partnership with the Collective of Child Welfare Survivors (CCWS).

CCWS is a grassroots organization that provides various support for child welfare survivors between the ages 15–25 years old, particularly Black, Indigenous, and racialized individuals and families.

Josh Lamers (he/him)
Executive Lead

Ashley Ash (she/her)
Community Development & Policy Advisor

Rachelle Metatawabin (she/her)
Community Development & Case Manager

Get in touch with CCWS
Website: www.collectiveofcws.ca
Email: info@collectiveofcws.ca
Phone: (647) 675-9789



OUR SYSTEM. OUR CHILDREN. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

BLAC and a coalition of community organizations are requesting that:

- The Minister of Public Safety immediately suspend the enforcement of any removal order against a foreign national who came to Canada as a child and spent any period of their childhood in Canada's child welfare system;
- The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship immediately reinstate the permanent resident status of any former permanent resident in Canada who came to Canada as a child and spent any period of their childhood in Canada's child welfare system, or in the alternative immediately grant such persons Temporary Resident Permits and waive any associated fees; and
- The Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship provide a path to citizenship for all current and former permanent residents who are currently in or have spent any period of their childhood in Canada's child welfare system.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- **Evaluate where resources are being allocated**
- **Policing budget vs. community safety & crisis response**
- **Review practices and policies disproportionately affecting Black communities**
- **Housing, shelters, and social services**
- **Transit and bylaw enforcement**
- **Criminalization of poverty**
- **Collect disaggregated race - based data**

- Addressing ABR does not equal diversity and multiculturalism
- Intersectionality
- Centre the leadership of Indigenous and Black people
- Focus on impact not intent
- Address internalized, interpersonal and institutional racism
- Be reflective in our hiring, promotions, etc.
- Acknowledge that POC can be complicit in the oppression of Black people
- Be aware of your own fragilities and remember that there are always things to learn

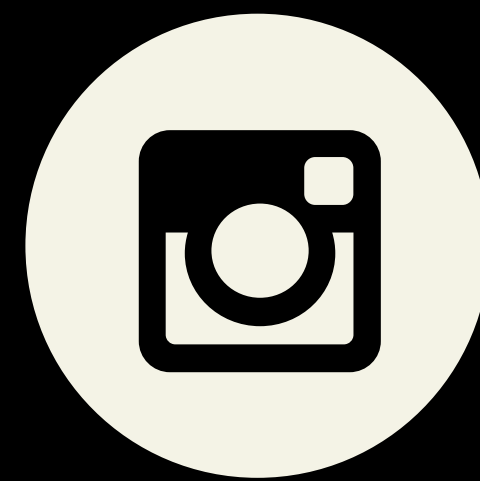
THANK YOU!



@BLACKLEGALACTIONCENTRE



@BLAC_ONTARIO



@BLACKLEGALACTIONCENTRE

www.blacklegalactioncentre.ca



**Parents of
Black Children**

COMMITTED

UNITED

STRONG



@PoBCAdvocate

www.parentsofblackchildren.org

info@parentsofblackchildren.org



About Us

- Advocacy organization
- Federally incorporated
- For Black parents, by Black parents

Our Vision

The vision of Parents of Black Children is to effectively engage education leaders, to create an equitable and peaceful educational experience, free from oppression and anti-Black racism for students of African Canadian descent



HOW WE STARTED

Black parents call on province to 'decolonize' curriculum in effort to fight racism in schools



School system doesn't support Black children or 'recognize their humanity,' mother says

Nazima Walji - CBC News

Posted: September 07, 2020

Last Updated: September 07, 2020



Toronto-area mother called 'N-word' launches human rights complaint against York school board



Charline Grant says board's response to slur ineffective, failed to protect dignity

Shanifa Nasser - CBC News

Posted: April 09, 2017

Last Updated: April 09, 2017



GTA

Online tool for educators to report anti-Black racism in schools launched by Canadian parents group

By Angelyn Francis Local Journalism Initiative Reporter



What We Do

ADVOCACY & TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

Our main goal is to create systemic change for Black families. We advocate and activate not only at school boards across the province, but with the provincial government and Ministry of Education to create changes that will create transformational change.

SYSTEMS NAVIGATION

We support parents as they navigate the education and child welfare systems. On top of providing general support and council, we will also attend meetings with parents, draft emails, unpack teacher remarks/feedback, and more.

PARENT EDUCATION AND RESOURCES

We source and provide afri-centric resources to parents and teachers who request them. We provide parents with tips and information that they may not receive directly from the education system.



Thank You

We are stronger when we
work together.



@PoBCAdvocate

www.parentsofblackchildren.org

