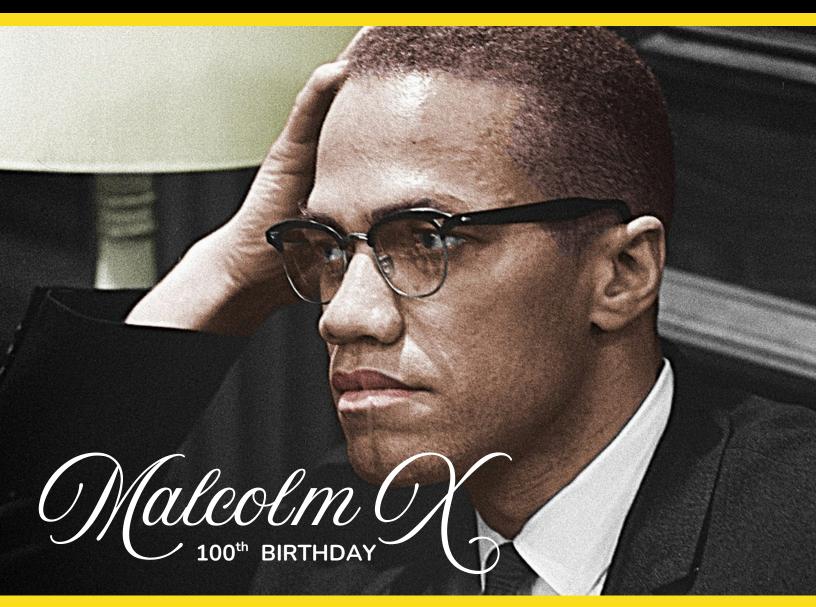


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS

Harambee Vision

SPRING 2025 NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

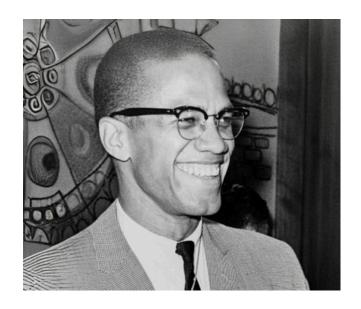


Designed & edited by: Sister Sharron McDaniel, National CIC Chair Co-edited by: Brother Damion Wilson, National Corresponding Secretary

MALCOLM X'S 100TH BIRTHDAY



NABSW proudly honors the enduring legacy of Malcolm X, born on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska. Throughout his life, Malcolm X was a relentless advocate for the upliftment and human rights of people of African descent across the globe. He embodied the principles of Black Nationalism and amplified the voices of an African-centered philosophy, making significant strides in the fight against systemic racism. His approach to confronting racial injustice has profoundly influenced the consciousness of Black America, inspiring generations of activists and leaders.



Malcolm's dedication to his community was unwavering, and his poignant messages continue to resonate today, as emerging leaders seek to defy the entrenched foundations of racism within American society. As we commemorate what would have been Malcolm X's 100th birthday on May 19th, we reflect on the profound impact he left behind, even more than sixty years after his passing. His commitment to justice and equality remains a guiding light for many.

To honor Malcolm's contributions and to further explore his influence, NABSW is reprinting a significant article from the NABSW Journal, originally published in 1996. Authored by Dr. Jerome Schiele, a professor of social work at Morgan State University, the piece titled "Malcolm X and Social Work" delves into the relevance of Malcolm's work through the lens of social work practice. It reveals how his philosophy and strategies can inform contemporary social work and inspire practitioners to challenge social injustices.

In tribute to Brother Malcolm and his indelible mark on the pursuit of justice, we embrace the invocation of Ase, recognizing the power of his spirit and teachings as we continue our work toward equality and liberation.

SCAN TO ACCESS THE ARTICLE



"THE BALLOT OR THE BULLET" SPEECH



On April 3, 1964, in Cleveland, Ohio, Malcolm X spoke at Cory United Methodist Church. He presented a speech titled "The Ballot or the Bullet". Today, we stand sixty years removed from that speech where many of the same issues remain for Black Americans seeking liberation through the strength of the vote. As was pointed out by Brother Malcolm so eloquently and beautifully, it was time for Black people to pull together (Harambee) and elect political leaders who have the interest of the Black community at heart. In his speech, Brother Malcolm challenged the Black community to use the ballot to gain political and economic freedom, by any means necessary.

Malcolm recognized that Blacks in 1964 had gained political maturity and presented the ability to become a swing vote. He stressed that Blacks needed to become aware of politicians who presented as friends of the Black community but were nothing more than hypocrites. Malcolm made it clear that a ballot is a potent weapon. - A ballot is like a bullet. You don't throw your ballots until you see a target, and if that target is not within your reach, keep your ballot in your pocket.

Malcolm personified concepts of Kujichagulia within the framework of this speech. According to Malcolm, the Black community ought to be aware that America remains an oppressive country despite all the legislation guaranteeing Black citizens the right to vote. In his commitment to Black Nationalism, Brother Malcolm stressed the need for Black Americans to control the politics and economics within their communities-self-government. "The Ballot or the Bullet" called for unity amongst Black people. The speech is intentional within the concept that Black people need to put aside ideological differences to work together for the betterment of the Black community.

In 2025, Black America is at a crossroads. The previous gains made by our pioneers and ancestors are under attack by politicians who place the demands and needs of the Black community at the bottom of the heap. It is time for Black people to demand what is rightfully theirs! We are tired of waiting, and our community has played the waiting game too long.

The words by Brother Malcolm sixty years ago still ring true today. It is time for Black social workers to intensify the struggle and hold politicians accountable for the needs of our community. In the vein of Brother Malcolm, we must work together to strengthen our community. We must unite and remain grounded in the collective purpose to build strong, viable Black communities. The National Association of Black Social Workers honors Brother Malcolm and his commitment to liberating Black people throughout the diaspora. In 2025 and beyond, it is either the ballot or the bullet!

By Damion Wilson, MSW National Corresponding Secretary National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.





NABSW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE





Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Kathy Lopes
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



Melissa Smith-Haley
NATIONAL INTERIM TREASURER



Dr. Tiffany Johnson
NATIONAL RECORDING SECRETARY



Damion Wilson
NATIONAL CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



Catina Anderson
NATIONAL MEMBER-AT-LARGE

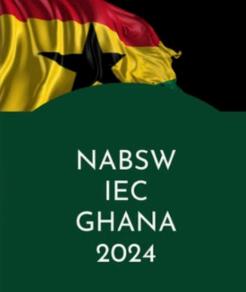


LaToya Hines NATIONAL MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Welcome New Officers!

Let's give a warm round of applause to the newly elected and returning officers of the Executive Committee for NABSW! This dedicated team is poised to carry forward the essential work needed to ensure NABSW remains the unwavering voice of all Black social work professionals, steadfastly committed to championing social justice.









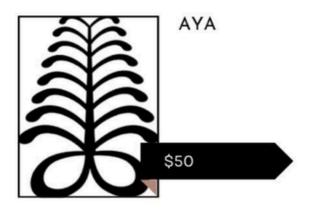
GHANA 2024 FUNDRAISER

Thank you for your donations! https://www.nabsw.org/donations/donate.asp? id=23928









Ujima | Collective Work & Responsibility in action #stayoncode









INTERNATIONAL TRIP TO GHANA





This past summer, NABSW embarked on a transformative journey to the motherland, Ghana. This incredible trip allowed us to reconnect with our heritage and strengthen familial bonds. Ghana, a pivotal part of the African Diaspora, bears the scars of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, which forcibly separated millions of Africans from their roots. During our visit, we connected with aspiring social work students, immersing ourselves in the vibrant culture and breathtaking beauty of the country.

Ghana is not just geographically significant; it's where the esteemed W.E.B. DuBois found his final resting place, and the birthplace of Kwame Nkrumah, who bravely ushered Ghana into freedom from colonialism. It was in this powerful land that NABSW proudly held the installation of its new officers, solidifying our commitment to Africa and our global mission. The upcoming International Conference is a testament to that dedication. In the spirit of Harambee, we will continue to advocate for our collective liberation, echoing Marcus Garvey's powerful message: "One Aim, One Goal, One Destiny."

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE





September 2024, where NABSW shone brightly at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Conference. This was our moment to engage with influential congressional leaders from around the nation, and we took full advantage! Our sessions delved into critical topics like the importance of voting, affirmative action, and legislation that directly impacts our communities. The energy was electric, and NABSW was there, making our voices heard and driving the conversation forward!

PROJECT 2025



Dr. Colita Fairfax-On October 2, 2025, the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) proudly hosted a pivotal event titled "A Disquisition on Project 2025," facilitated by Dr. Colita Fairfax, a distinguished Professor at the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University. This presentation built upon a previous session by Dr. Fairfax, where she had first introduced the critical implications of Project 2025 for Black Americans.



During her enlightening talk, Dr. Fairfax explored the potential outcomes should Project 2025 be fully implemented. Her analysis revealed deep concerns surrounding public education, with a particular focus on how proposed block grants, designed to be managed by state governments, may lead to a significant erosion of accountability. This shift threatens to exacerbate disparities in funding, undermining educational opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Dr. Fairfax further highlighted alarming cuts to essential federal programs, including Title I, Head Start, and Medicaid, which provide vital support to low-income families. She painted a vivid picture of an impending crisis—a concerted assault on the welfare of impoverished individuals across the country, with a troubling trend towards prioritizing the interests of the wealthy.

Moreover, Dr. Fairfax addressed the broader implications of Project 2025 on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, emphasizing the potential dismantling of programs that foster inclusivity and representation. Her passionate indictment of this agenda included a critical evaluation of the role played by Donald Trump and various right-wing activists, who, she argued, are driving a dangerous and extreme narrative that is fundamentally anti-Black, anti-poverty, and anti-woke.

Ultimately, Dr. Fairfax made a compelling case for urgent action against Project 2025, urging attendees to recognize the ramifications of these policies on the well-being of Black Americans and to mobilize in defense of equity and justice in the social fabric of the nation



National Association of Black Social Workers

HIV PREVENTION WELLNESS WARRIORS INITIATIVE

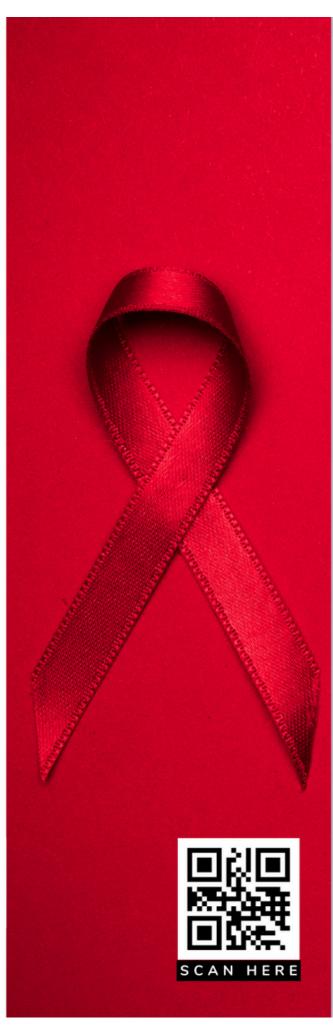
In this project, NABSW will host webinars, engage with communities face-to-face, establish and nurture community partnerships, particularly with the Faith-Based Community, and enhance the understanding and capabilities of both its members and the African American community in HIV prevention efforts.

THIS CAMPAIGN IS MADE POSSIBLE BY GRANT FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE GILEAD GRANT.



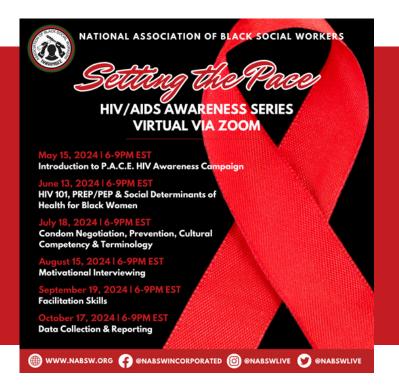


FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT NABSW.ORG



HIV GILEAD GRANT







The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) has joined forces with Gilead to combat the HIV epidemic in the Black community. Throughout the year, NABSW has provided its members with a wealth of resources and practical tips designed to foster greater awareness about HIV. This comprehensive campaign has tackled a range of critical issues, including effective prevention methods, educational outreach, accessible treatment options, and the urgent need to dispel long-standing myths and stigma associated with the disease.

In recognizing the intricate socioeconomic factors that contribute to the prevalence of HIV, NABSW emphasizes the importance of understanding how these dynamics shape the experiences of individuals within the Black community. To deepen this understanding, NABSW hosted six engaging and informative sessions beginning in May 2024, each focusing on different facets of HIV, including community health strategies, personal stories of resilience, and expert-led discussions on innovative treatment approaches. This initiative aims to empower community members with knowledge and skills to address the challenges of HIV effectively.

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW MEETING





As the membership season kicked off, the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) faced an exciting yet daunting challenge: the implementation of the new Glue Up platform. In response to this transition, the Membership Committee organized an informative presentation aimed at guiding members through the intricacies of the new system.

The session provided comprehensive insights into the various features of Glue Up, focusing on the membership registration process and encouraging user engagement. Committee members emphasized the importance of familiarizing themselves with the platform, offering practical strategies and tips to enhance usability and streamline the registration experience.

With a collaborative approach, the presentation sought to empower members, helping them navigate the changes efficiently and effectively. By addressing common concerns and providing hands-on demonstrations, the Membership Committee ensured that all participants felt supported and well-equipped to embrace this new phase in their organization's membership journey.



VIA ZOOM

1:00 PM

"Legacy, Leadership & Love: Then & Now"

Facilitated by: Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones

2:30 PM

"The Power of Pan-Africanism Ghana 2025"

Facilitated by: Melissa Smith-Haley

3:00 PM

"Sawubona **Healing Circle:** Crisis Responses, Safe

Black Space for people with lived experiences"

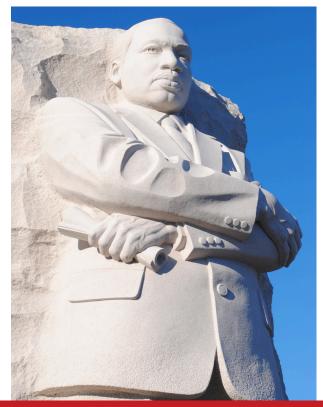
> Facilitated by: **ABPsi**

MLK CELEBRATION



In honoring the profound life and enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., NABSW, in collaboration with the National Association of Black Psychologists and the Black Family Summit, organized a series of impactful events on January 20, 2025. This event series was conceptualized as a trifecta, bringing together three significant sessions aimed at fostering dialogue, reflection, and community healing.

The first session, titled "Legacy, Leadership & Love: Then & Now," was skillfully facilitated by NABSW National President, Dr. Renata Hedrington Jones. This discussion explored the historical context of Dr. King's work and its resonance in contemporary society, highlighting how his principles of love and leadership continue to inspire movements for justice today.



Pictured: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, located in West Potomac Park on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Following this, "The Power of Pan-Africanism Ghana 2025," facilitated by Former NABSW National President, Melissa Smith-Haley, delved into the unifying vision of Pan-Africanism, emphasizing its relevance in today's global context. This session aimed to illuminate the connections between the African diaspora and the ongoing efforts to reclaim cultural heritage and foster solidarity across borders.

Lastly, "Sawubona Healing Circle: Crisis Responses, Safe Black Space for People with Lived Experiences" provided a restorative environment for participants to share their personal experiences and challenges in a supportive setting. This circle aimed to validate individual experiences while offering collective healing strategies, reinforcing the importance of safe spaces within the Black community.

Through these thoughtfully curated events, we honored Dr. King's legacy by actively pursuing truth, justice, and community empowerment, reminding ourselves of the importance of continuing his work in today's world.

BLACK HISTORIC FIGURES



NABSW stands on the shoulders of historic pioneers in social work who are often forgotten. Their accomplishments are not discussed in the history of the social work profession. NABSW honors the following heroes:



George Edmund Haynes, founder of the National Urban League and the first African-American to receive a doctorate from Columbia University and a social work degree. He pushed for African Americans to become involved in social work and is considered one of the first pioneers of the Black Social Work Movement.

Maggie Lena Walker was the first woman to found and be president of a bank. Lead Consolidated Savings and Trust and was instrumental in the leadership of the Independent Order of St. Luke. Her vision was to open a bank as a means of helping African Americans finance their homes. Fought to advance the plight of African Americans through economic justice and promotion of Black businesses.



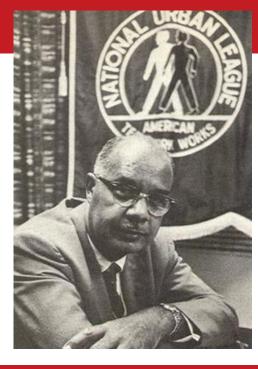
BLACK HISTORIC FIGURES





Ida B. Wells Barnett was a leader of the early civil rights movement and dedicated her career to social justice. She was a crusader who fought against lynching and was known for her investigative journalistic work in addressing racism. A founder of the NAACP, Wells-Barnett spent her life documenting the lynching of African Americans in the United States and was also active in the women's suffrage movement.

Lester Granger was the third Executive Director of the National Urban League who worked to advance the plight of African Americans in the federal government and pushed for the federal elimination of racial segregation in defense employment. He fought for African Americans to get federal contracts and holds the distinction of being the first African American elected president of the National Conference of Social Work.





Edward Franklin Frazier is a renowned social worker and sociologist who helped found the Atlanta University School of Social Work. He became the first Black president of the American Sociological Association in 1948 and was known as a theorist who wrote on the dynamics of race relations in this country. His work further provided analysis of the Black family and has been cited by scholars who have sought to study the African-American family culture.



DR. RENATA HERRINGTON-JONES NABSW NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Mondshop
SERIES

UMOJA

TO STRIVE FOR AND MAINTAIN UNITY IN THE FAMILY, COMMUNITY, NATION AND RACE

"AFRICAN CENTERED PRACTICE"

DECEMER 26, 2024 VIA ZOOM 12 NOON EST

MODERATED BY

DR PHONDA WELLS-WILBON



DR. RENATA HERRINGTON-JONES NABSW NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Moukshop

NIA

TO MAKE OUR COLLECTIVE VOCATION THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPING OF OUR COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO RESTORE OUR PEOPLE TO THEIR TRADITIONAL GREATNESS.

"THE POWER OF PAN AFRICANISM GHANA 2024/2025"

DECEMER 30, 2024 VIA ZOOM 7:00PM EST



MELISSA SMITH-HALEY



REGINALD VIRGIL



KRISTI LOVE



DR. DARREN GARNER



DR. LATANYA TOWNSEND

KWANZAA



The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) recently presented an insightful three-part Kwanzaa series, designed to deepen understanding of key principles and their application to the liberation of African people. Each session was expertly moderated by NABSW stalwarts, ensuring a rich exploration of these vital topics.

The first workshop, titled "Umoja: African-Centered Practice," was hosted by Dr. Rhonda Wells-Wilbon, who engaged participants in discussions centered on the importance of unity and collective action within African-centered practices. Dr. Wells-Wilbon drew on historical contexts and contemporary applications, urging attendees to consider how unity can foster community development and empowerment.



Pictured: The Kwanzaa Kinara fully lit to commemorate the 7
Principles of Nguzo Saba

The second session, "Kujichagulia: The Journey to NABSW and Beyond," featured longtime advocates and leaders Elder Sondera Malry and Kristi Love, the former President of the District of Columbia Association of Black Social Workers (DC ABSW). This workshop focused on self-determination, exploring personal and collective journeys within NABSW and the broader social work field. The moderators shared their experiences and insights, encouraging attendees to reflect on their own paths and contributions to the field.

The final workshop, titled "Nia: The Power of Pan-Africanism: Ghana 2024/25," was moderated by an esteemed panel that included Melissa Smith-Haley (Immediate Past President), Reginald Virgil, Kristi Love, Dr. Darren Garner, and Dr. LaTanya Townsend. This session aimed to highlight the significance of purpose in unifying the African diaspora and the anticipated impact of the upcoming Pan-African events in Ghana. The discussion covered the historical roots of Pan-Africanism and its relevance today, inspiring participants to envision their role in this important movement.

Overall, the Kwanzaa series not only celebrated the principles of the holiday but also provided a platform for meaningful dialogue and reflection on the ongoing journey toward liberation and empowerment for African people.

Voices of the VILLAGE

-A Kwanzaa. series featuring some of NABSW's significant trailblazers-



Baba Leonard G. Dunston UMOJA December 26th



Dr. Patricia Reid Merritt KUCHICHAGALIA December 27th



J. Toni Oliver UJIMA December 28th



Garland Jaggers UJAMAA December 29th



Baba Alvin Dollar NIA December 30th



Dr. Gloria Batiste Roberts KUUMBA December 31st



Dr. Renata Hedrington-Jones IMANI January 1st

VOICES OF THE VILLAGE





The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) has once again brought attention to the poignant initiative known as the Voices of the Village. This annual event serves as a heartfelt tribute to our pioneers, past presidents, and esteemed elders who have paved the way for future generations. This year, the occasion carries a heightened sense of urgency and significance due to the recent passing of two distinguished NABSW pioneers: Baba Leonard Dunston, who served as the 7th National President, and Baba Alvin Dollar, recognized as an invaluable NABSW warrior and influence. Both individuals transitioned in 2024, leaving behind a rich legacy of commitment to the liberation and empowerment of African people.

As we gather to reflect on their lives and contributions, the Voices of the Village aims to honor their memories and rekindle the spirit of their dedication. This initiative not only celebrates their achievements but also reaffirms our collective mission to uphold the values they championed. We invite you to participate in this meaningful event, once again hosted by Damion Wilson, as we come together to share stories, wisdom, and inspiration that continue to resonate within our community. Let the Voices of the Village serve as a lasting tribute to their indomitable spirits and an urgent reminder of the work that lies ahead.



PODEAST

hosted by Dr.RC







10:00 AM EST



@soarwithkatie

Featured Guest:

Don't miss this powerful episode of Dare To Soar with

Dr. RC! Join me for an eye-opening and thought-provoking
conversation with Mr. Damion Wilson -Hampton Road

ABSW as we dive into the critical topic:

"Homeless Education & African America

Disparities in Housing."



PODEAST

hosted by Dr.RC

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10:00 AM EST



@soarwithkatie

Featured Guest:

Don't miss this powerful episode of
Dare to Soar with Dr. RC!
Join us as NABSW member Ms. Kristi Love, MSW,
leads a heartfelt and compassionate discussion titled:
"Justice Is Love: Amplifying Advocacy for Maternal Health."
Tune in for an enlightening and impactful conversation
that will inspire and uplift.

DARE TO SOAR





A series hosted by Dr. Terriyln Rivers-Cannon, which explores significant issues surrounding the social work and human service profession, has the distinction of featuring key NABSW members. The podcast titled "Dare to Soar" can be seen on Facebook, Youtube, and live stream from the website https://boldbravetv.com/dare-to-soar/. Some of the featured speakers from NABSW include Daryl Fraser from Richmond ABSW and Lillie Jackson and Patricia Smith from Greater Akron ABSW.

WELLNESS WARRIOR





October 29, 2024 7:30pm, EST Meeting ID: 872 2728 2497



Garland Jage

Baba Garland Jaggers

Author and NABSW Founder

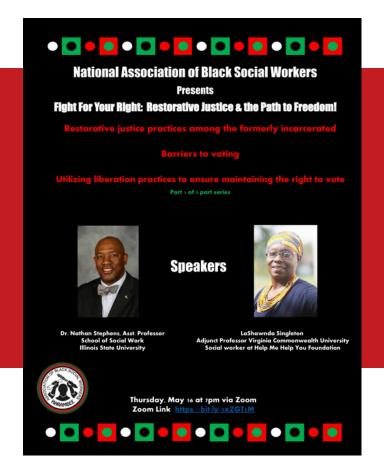
HOSTED BY: SONDERA MALRY AND KRISTI LOVE NABSW is on a mission to illuminate the rich history of our organization while emphasizing the critical importance of activism. The NABSW Sankofa Series recently brought together our community for an inspiring gathering, where we had the privilege of listening to our elders who fought tirelessly for equity. Hosted by the dynamic Sondera Malry and Kristi Love, one memorable session featured the NABSW Founder and Pioneer, Garland Jaggers. The insights shared by Brother Jaggers were nothing short of powerful, reinforcing our unwavering commitment to social justice through the voices of our last remaining founders.

The past year also saw a remarkable series of Brunch and Learn webinars hosted by NABSW, touching on a spectrum of important issues including voting rights, incarceration, mental health, HIV, and so much more. These Brunch and Learn sessions serve as vital platforms for professional development and provide members with essential, relevant information. Some standout discussions included "Breaking Barriers: Addressing Structural and Social Determinants of Health to Improve PrEP Access for Young Adults" led by Princess Jauan T. Durbin, "Explore the Potential of Al Technology and Boosting Member Involvement" by Malaka Mims and Jasmine Welcome from the Greater Boston ABSW, and a compelling session on "The Strength of the Black Voice in the 2024 Election" presented by Dr. Angela Henderson. Join us as we continue to uplift voices, share knowledge, and inspire action within our community!

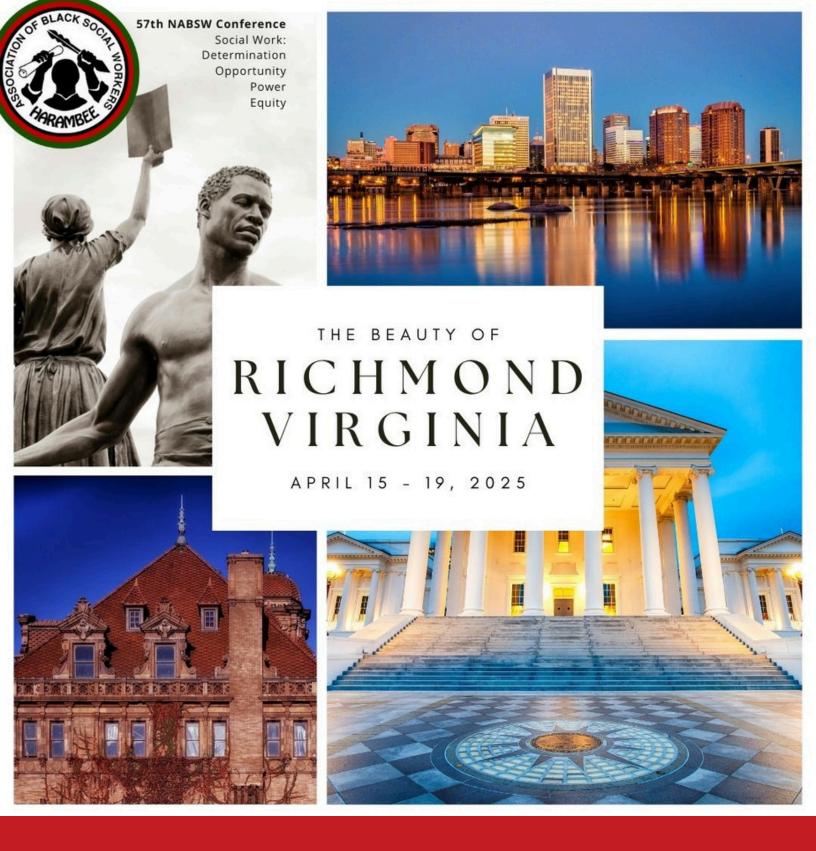


WELLNESS WARRIOR

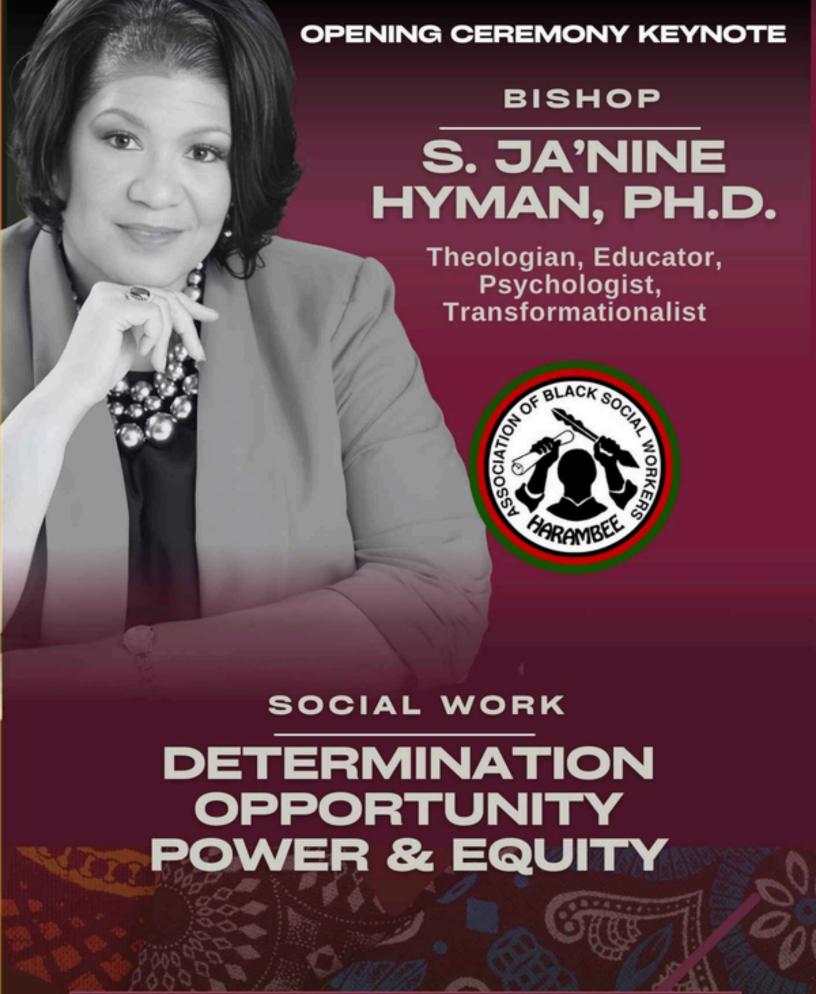




In 2024, we commemorated a pivotal moment in history—60 years since Malcolm X delivered his iconic speech, "The Ballot or the Bullet." Today, our nation still grapples with the divides that W.E.B. DuBois identified as the pressing issue of the 20th Century: the color line. In an election that vividly revealed the realities of systemic inequity, NABSW stands resolute at the forefront, challenging the hypocrisy that denies equal access and rights to nearly 43 million Black citizens in the United States. In May 2024, we hosted an impactful session featuring Dr. Nathan Stephens and LaShawnda Singleton, who delved into the vital topic of restorative justice. Despite efforts to undermine the voting rights of formerly incarcerated individuals, these two passionate advocates discussed pathways to reclaim those rights and explored the underlying motivations behind such systemic barriers. Titled "Fight for Your Right: Restorative Justice and Path to Freedom," this session highlighted the imperative of ensuring every Black American has a voice at the ballot box, along with the crucial role social workers play in supporting our community in exercising that right.



2025 NABSW CONFERENCE



57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE * RICHMOND, VA



CENIE "JOMO" WILLIAMS LUNCHEON GERALD K. SMITH SOCIAL ISSUES SYMPOSIUM

CENIE "JOMO" WILLIAMS LUNCHEON

SOCIAL WORK

DETERMINATION OPPORTUNITY POWER & EQUITY

57TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE * RICHMOND, VA

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS





57th NABSW Conference Social Work: Determination Opportunity Power Equity





MAKES HISTORY AS WH CORRESP



APRIL RYAN

Cenie "Jomo" Williams, Jr.

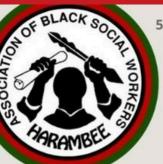
Luncheon

Keynote Speaker



CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS





57th NABSW Conference
Social Work:
Determination
Opportunity
Power
Equity

Dr. Yusef Salaam



Democrat
Yusef Salaam,
Exonerated 'Central
Park Five' Member,
Wins New York City
Council Seat

Dr. Gerald K. Smith

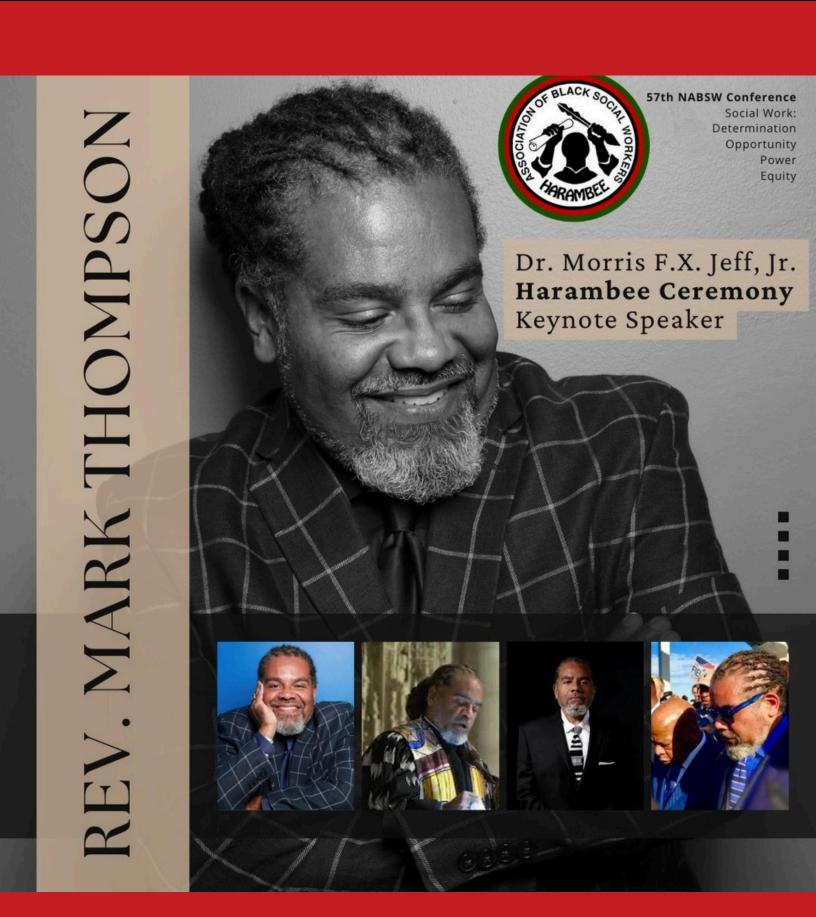
Social Issues Symposium

Keynote Speaker



CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS





CHANA PANAFEST 2.0

10-DAY EXPERIENCE ACCRA, KUMADI & CAPE COAST







May | 29th | 8 PM EST, 7 PM CST, 5 PM PT Google Meet link:

meet.google.com/kjq-xybn-pnq