



Dystopia, Then Deportation

Post-Event Insights
and Action Items

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OHIO IMMIGRANT
— ALLIANCE

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1 – ABOUT THIS REPORT

On December 12, 2023, over 60 advocates, community leaders, philanthropic partners, legal experts, and directly impacted individuals gathered (physically and virtually) at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice for “Dystopia, Then Deportation,” an event that catalyzed a series of wide-ranging, solutions-oriented discussions about the systemic injustices and basic human rights violations experienced by Black migrants within the US immigration enforcement system.

This report summarizing key insights and recommendations from "Dystopia, Then Deportation" was authored by Nana Afua Y. Brantuo, Ph.D, Founder and Principal of Diaspora Praxis LLC. and published by Ohio Immigrant Alliance.

The following questions were used to shape this report:

*What were the most **compelling insights or discoveries** from the strategy sessions that could **reshape advocacy efforts for Black migrant rights**?*

*How can the perspectives shared **inform policy changes or community-driven initiatives** aimed at addressing the challenges faced by Black migrants?*

*What **collaborative strategies or partnerships** emerged that could **enhance the capacity of organizations to support Black migrants effectively**?*

*How might the **narratives and lived experiences of Black migrants** shared during this event **shape future discourse** on human rights and immigration issues?*

*What **actionable steps** can be taken by individuals, organizations, or policymakers to foster **systemic changes that uphold the rights and dignity of Black migrants**?*

Suggested Citation

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This report and its recommendations are available to all advocating for the rights and well-being of Black migrants. Visit <https://bit.ly/watchdystopia> or scan the code to view a recording of the event, this report, and other resources.



2 - SPONSORS & CURATOR

Sponsors



Ohio Immigrant Alliance is a group of Ohio immigrants and citizens working together to protect the dignity and rights of all individuals who choose to make Ohio their home, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, age, ability, and citizenship status. We engage in activism and volunteerism that connect communities across the state — as well as Ohioans who have been deported — to expand our voices and hold leaders accountable.

Cameroon Advocacy Network is a coalition of organizations and activists across the United States and Cameroon advocating for the freedom and dignity of Cameroonians. We stand in solidarity with all Black immigrants fighting for liberation.



Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in the US is a nonprofit 501(3) organization gathering Mauritanian immigrants living in the US. It is fighting for human rights, civil rights, and better opportunities for Mauritanians, both in the US. Also known as MNHRUS, the Network works diligently to empower Mauritanian immigrants to integrate socially, advance economically, engage civically, and fight for a better Mauritania, free of racial discrimination, slavery, and injustice. MNHRUS assists Mauritanians by connecting them to important resources in the communities they live in and by assisting them in facing and tackling the issues that matter to them.

Curator

Diaspora Praxis LLC is a research consultancy specializing in interdisciplinary and mixed methods research and analysis using demographic, socioeconomic, and public sector data.



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BRIDGING RESEARCH AND REAL-WORLD
IMPACT

3 - SPEAKERS, STRATEGY SESSIONS & FACILITATORS

Plenary Speakers

Daniel Tse, the visionary behind the Cameroon Advocacy Network, has led pivotal advocacy efforts on behalf of Black migrants in the US. His multifaceted role within organizations like the Haitian Bridge Alliance and Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights underscores his commitment to direct service, impactful advocacy, and policy reform, particularly aimed at empowering Black immigrant communities. His personal journey, from seeking asylum pro se to providing strategic legal aid, highlights his relentless dedication to human rights and racial justice.

Dr. Nancy Adossi, a renowned political scientist with expertise in migration in North America and Africa, leverages over a decade of experience collaborating with policymakers to address migrant issues. She's a co-owner of Adossi Consulting, LLC, focusing on analytics and strategy, and previously served as a visiting adjunct professor within the University of Houston system. Having navigated life as an undocumented migrant herself from 1998 until she left the US in 2018, she now thrives across multiple global locations, dividing her time between Addis Ababa, Toronto, Paris, and Doha. Her words are her own opinions based on her lived experiences in Canada and the US.

Houleye Thiam is the President of Youth and Hope Inc., a nonprofit supporting Mauritanian children's education by providing school supplies and transportation stipends. Additionally, she leads the Mauritanian Network for Human Rights, advocating for civil rights and better opportunities for Mauritanians in the US and Mauritania. Her organizations work towards social integration, economic advancement, civic engagement, and the eradication of racial discrimination and injustice in Mauritania.

Nadhirou Bachirou Tambahou, an advocate for justice and a Mauritanian fleeing political persecution, sought refuge in the US after experiencing violence. Nadhirou's father, Lt. Abdoulaye Tambahou, was one of 28 Black soldiers murdered at the Inal torture camp on November 28, 1990. Nadhirou himself has faced violence and oppression, participating in protests against government injustices. His story highlights the challenges faced by asylum seekers and emphasizes the global need for support and awareness for Black Mauritanians.

Plenary Speakers, Continued

Amik Felix Andong, a Cameroonian immigrant, underwent a challenging journey seeking refuge, including a 15-month detention in a Texas immigration center. His connection with the Cameroon Advocacy Network (CAN) led to his release and resettlement in Minnesota. He advocates against racism, fights for fair immigration reform prioritizing humane treatment and family unity, and emphasizes equal rights for all individuals.

Abdoulaye Thiaw is a Mauritanian community advocate who sought asylum in the United States. Despite his deportation order dating back to 2007, Abdoulaye was deported during the Trump administration, facing language barriers as a Mauritanian Fulani speaker and encountering bias in credible fear determinations, underscoring systemic challenges within the immigration process. He currently resides in Senegal, where he continues to advocate and raise awareness for Black Mauritians.

Strategy Sessions and Facilitators

SESSION 1: REPRESENTATION VS. SELF-DETERMINATION

There is a segment of the immigrant rights movement that supports universal access to legal representation in immigration court. Another segment advocates for a simpler system entirely, one that people can navigate without expensive, hard-to-find lawyers. Which option more closely reflects the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? How can we get there?

Facilitator: Breanne J. Palmer, Esq. is a licensed attorney and policy advocate with a movement-lawyering orientation that guides her work. Based in the Washington, D.C. metro area, Breanne has held positions in the federal government, private practice, and the nonprofit sector, with deep experience in the immigration policy space and growing expertise in other issue areas. Breanne is especially passionate about Black immigration issues and advocacy. Breanne is also the founder and principal of AJA Advocacy Solutions, LLC, a policy advocacy consulting firm.

SESSION 2: FUNDING AND INSTITUTION-BUILDING

What are the essential requirements for directly impacted individuals and their organizations to expand their staffing, broaden their reach, and effectively wield influence? How can foundations and other entities in the nonprofit industry better synchronize their efforts with Black immigrant-led organizations and bolster support for Black immigrant leaders? Could certain organizations assume admin-

Strategy Sessions, Continued

istrative responsibilities or other functions, thereby allowing Black immigrant leadership to concentrate on program development, power-building initiatives, and generating significant impact? Additionally, how can leadership development programs be tailored to assist individuals who must navigate the complexities of personal and family obligations?

Facilitator: Janvieve Williams Comrie is a human rights strategist, organizer, Certified Professional Racial Equity and Diversity Coach, and the Founder and Executive Director of AfroResistance, committed to educating and organizing for human rights, democracy and racial justice throughout the Americas. She is recognized internationally for her expertise in race relations and human rights within African Descendant communities. Her extensive experience spans collaborations, human rights institutions, nations and regions. Her influential work on race and racism has been featured on platforms such as CNN en Español, Al Jazeera, TeleSur, BBC Radio, and The Nation Magazine.

SESSION 3: COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH & EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS: CENTERING BLACK MIGRANTS

This session centered on harnessing community research and expertise in fostering equitable solutions for Black migrants navigating the immigration system and courts. The session delved into the pivotal role of community-driven research, exploring methods to empower and center the knowledge and experiences of Black migrants.

Participants catalyzed actionable steps to amplify community voices, promote participatory and inclusive methodologies, and drive tangible change prioritizing fairness within immigration practices.

Facilitator: Nicole Hewitt-Cabral is a seasoned community builder with over 20 years of experience in the US and abroad, leading Community Action Strategies LLC to drive transformative social impact through innovative community development strategies. Her extensive work with organizations like Public Agenda and the United Nations involves providing technical expertise and civic engagement planning for various clients. Trained in



Research strategy session with Nicole Hewitt-Cabral

Strategy Sessions, Continued

participatory research techniques during her Peace Corps service, she integrates these methods into her work, aiming at community-based participatory action research and empowerment interventions.

SESSION 4: IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION IN COURTS FOR BLACK MIGRANTS

Which barriers exist for Black migrants to effectively communicate with their attorneys, judges, and other court personnel, and understand the law, the process, and their rights? Which solutions would ensure people who speak rare languages, are not fully literate, or do not understand what is happening in immigration court can advocate for themselves fairly and completely?

Facilitators: Malado Barro, a certified interpreter fluent in Bambara/Mandingo, French, and English, advocates for social justice and equal opportunities regardless of language barriers. Originally from Mali, she has a background in aquatic environment studies and biology and started to interpret in 2014 for the International Refugee Committee. While working as community health worker, Mrs. Barro advocates and interprets for her community because she thinks and believes that no one should suffer or feel excluded because of the language barrier. She is passionate about social justice and equal opportunities for all no matter what language they speak.



Mamadou Diallo, an experienced interpreter specializing in legal settings and immigration cases, is passionate about facilitating access to services in native languages, believing it to be the best way to serve his community. Originally from Guinea and raised in Senegal, Mamadou uses his skills to serve his community, participating in workshops and facilitating discussions on immigration.

Communication session with Malado Barro and Mamadou Diallo

4 - INSIGHTS & TAKEAWAYS

Opening Session and Plenary

To launch the convening, a cross-section of Black immigrant leaders and advocates delved into the harsh realities faced by Black migrants within immigration enforcement systems in the United States. Janvieve Williams Comrie read an opening statement from Nana Afua Y. Brantuo, Ph.D.

The opening plenary, moderated by Breanne Palmer, Esq., featured perspectives from:

Daniel Tse - Cameroon Advocacy Network

Dr. Nancy Adossi - Migration Expert

Houleye Thiam - President, Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in US

Bachirou Tambadou - Mauritanian Migrant in Ohio

Felix Amik Andong - Member of Cameroon Advocacy Network

Abdoulaye Thiaw - Mauritanian Migrant who was deported, based in Senegal

Through first-hand testimonies, the speakers spotlighted jarring disparities in immigration procedures, discourse, detention conditions, bonds, deportations and more—illuminating a system steeped in racism and designed to break Black bodies.



Dr. Nancy Adossi appears via pre-recorded video

Insights & Takeaways, Continued

Insights

- Barriers to legal representation and language access obstruct due process for Black migrants navigating complex immigration court proceedings.
- Black migrants face compounded barriers, driven by systemic racism in laws, discourse, procedures, and enforcement.
- Capacity-building of migrant-serving groups is imperative for influence; funders have a major role to play.
- Community-led initiatives are best positioned to put forward solutions rooted in on-the-ground realities.
- Dehumanization occurs via inflammatory rhetoric, oppressive detention practices, and biases permeating discretionary decisions.
- Historical context of oppression, colonialism, and enslavement continues to drive migration worldwide.
- Holistic change requires shifts in narrative, policy, legal protocols, enforcement, and access altogether.
- Intergenerational struggles for racial justice and Black liberation link movements across borders.
- Lived expertise of those navigating the system positions them best to envision alternative pathways centered on human rights.
- Punitive policies criminalize migration, violating basic rights to movement and blurring legal/moral boundaries on what constitutes a “crime.”
- Risk of death awaits asylum seekers wrongfully deported to unsafe countries while seeking refuge.
- There is some cautious optimism for positive change over the long arc, through grassroots solidarity efforts and radically reimagining current flawed systems.

The opening plenary painted a sobering portrait of the intentional, disproportionate obstacles erected to obstruct Black migrants at every phase—ultimately culminating in unjust detentions and deportations back to highly unstable, life-threatening conditions.

Insights & Takeaways, Continued

Strategy Sessions

Following the illuminating, yet deeply troubling, plenary, attendees broke into interactive working groups to generate community-driven solutions within four domains: Legal Representation Model Options; Funding and Capacity Building; and Community-Led Research; Communication and Language Access.

Facilitated by subject matter experts, these strategy sessions encouraged creative thinking about practical steps advocates could take to address flaws within the system, strengthen support mechanisms for Black migrants, and lay groundwork for alternative frameworks elevating human rights over enforcement priorities moving forward. Facilitators were: Breanne Palmer, Esq., [AJA Advocacy Solutions](#); Janvieve Williams Comrie, [AfroResistance](#); Nicole Hewitt-Cabral, [Community Action Strategies, LLC](#); Malado Barro and Mamadou Diallo, [Afrilingual](#).

While conversations understandably gravitated toward immediate concerns around deportations and detentions, facilitators skillfully steered groups toward expansive visions for holistic, far-reaching transformation—spanning policy, legal protocols, government systems, funding flows, and narrative change. Additionally, groups discussed radical experiments in designing an entirely new immigration framework that operates beyond the current system's constraints.

Concepts emerging from the sessions included:

- Participatory action research methods directly involving impacted communities
- Multilingual interface systems improving communication with courts
- Universal representation paired with community navigation centers
- General operating grants for migrant-led organizations
- Targeted fellowships for movement lawyering
- Storytelling and awareness-building campaigns

Insights and recommendations from each session follow.

Insights & Takeaways, Continued

SESSION 1: REPRESENTATION VS. SELF-DETERMINATION

Insights

- Universal representation alone won't fix the system and doesn't address backlogs or barriers preventing court access.
- Predatory lawyers exploit migrants; vetted, culturally-competent attorneys are still needed.
- Navigable systems centered on dignity and mobility as rights may better serve Black migrants.
- Political will, not resources, is lacking to create alternative processing pathways for African asylum seekers.
- Current momentum favors radically reimagining immigration frameworks versus incrementalist reforms.

Recommendations

- Pilot simplified, self-guided immigration application systems.
- Eliminate financial barriers to immigration relief options.
- Consider non-adversarial, affirmative application processes.
- Establish dedicated immigration court dockets based on case types, not geography.
- Fund neighborhood-based support centers providing legal aid.

SESSION 2: FUNDING AND INSTITUTION-BUILDING

Insights

- There is a disconnect between funders supporting work in the US vs. abroad, yet the issues are interconnected for migrants.
- Racial biases and lack of trust in Black-led organizations create barriers to accessing adequate funding and support.
- The concept of "migrant" is misunderstood—migrants have ties and responsibilities across borders that require holistic support.
- Black migrant-led groups take on substantial administrative burdens and capacity issues in accessing funding.

Recommendations

- Funders need to better recognize the links between domestic immigration issues and root causes in migrants' origin countries.
- General operating grants with fewer restrictions can better resource organizations to set their own priorities.
- Support is needed not just during crises, but for ongoing movement and capacity building of migrant-led groups.

Insights & Takeaways, Continued

- Centering people directly impacted in funding decisions and programs is critical for meaningful progress.
- Administrative obstacles that divert migrant organizers from advancing their missions must be reduced.

SESSION 3: COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH AND EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS IN IMMIGRATION: CENTERING BLACK MIGRANTS

Insights

- Traditional research exploits and disempowers communities, while community-led approaches center lived experiences.
- Storytelling and participatory methods are more inclusive for marginalized groups like Black migrants.
- Trust and relationship building are essential when partnering on community-based research.
- Led by those directly impacted, research can expose injustices and spark action.

Recommendations

- Fund community-led research projects defining problems and co-designing solutions.
- Support participatory research training and leadership pipelines in affected communities.
- Change exclusionary dynamics in research through co-ownership of data/knowledge with communities.
- Leverage research for narrative change and policy reforms advancing migrant rights.
- Mobilize legal assistance and material relief efforts for migrant groups through trusted intermediaries.

SESSION 4: IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION IN COURTS FOR BLACK MIGRANTS

Insights

- Language and interpretive issues frequently obstruct due process, with even small misunderstandings potentially changing case outcomes.
- Many Black migrants automatically fear and misunderstand the US legal system, affecting their ability to advocate for their rights.
- There is a shortage of certified interpreters who can accurately convey legal concepts, especially for less common African languages..

Insights & Takeaways, Continued

- Attorney awareness of interpretation quality issues is limited, though vital for upholding clients' rights.
- Reliance on ad hoc, untrained community members as interpreters, however well-intentioned, often backfires.

Recommendations

- Expand certified interpreter services through organizations like Afrilingual to supply more language options.
- Conduct "pre-meetings" between attorneys, interpreters, and clients to confirm dialect/fluency.
- Educate the community on using qualified interpreters over friends/relatives unless certified.
- Advise legal personnel to verify client interpretive needs are fully met before proceedings.
- Standardize testing regimes to certify more interpreters in legal contexts.

While acknowledging limitations of the strategy session format itself, the conversations marked a starting point for further dialogue and collaborative solution development work ahead—creatively moving from dystopia toward justice.

5 - RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTION ITEMS

In closing the conference, facilitators that underscored events like this one—though still uncommon—provide vital space for those most marginalized to reimagine systems central to their lives. Consequently, participants left energized to carry conversations forward—bridge-building across groups, sharing key insights through writing and social circles, and laying plans for a working group to advance solution concepts.

In further synthesizing discussions throughout the day, the following high-level recommendations and action items stood out as consensus priorities for collaborative action ahead.

Recommendations

Research

- Fund participatory action research projects defined by and rooted in migrant communities to inform policy and monitor enforcement.
- Standardize data collection on ethnicity and race to reveal disparities within immigration systems.

Language Access

- Expand interpretation services and translated materials for indigenous/minority language speakers.
- Invest in tools/interfaces to aid communication with legal and court systems.

Legal Advocacy and Court Reform

- Provide universal legal representation and community navigation assistance in immigration courts.
- Expand language access through wider interpretation services and translated materials.
- Consider non-adversarial court processes and affirmative application models.
- Establish dedicated immigration court dockets based on case types, rather than geography or detention status.

Enforcement Reform

- Dismantle the “cimmigration” system that criminalizes migration, including ending immigration detention.
- Impose stricter regulations and oversight over immigration enforcement agencies.

Recommendations, Continued

Regional Cooperation

- Develop alternative regional migrant processing pathways and expanded safe harbor programs specifically for African asylum seekers.

Accessible Immigration Systems

- Pilot simplified immigration applications and navigable bureaucratic processes.
- Eliminate financial barriers to accessing immigration relief.

Narrative Change

- Counter dehumanizing rhetoric toward migrants by showcasing their stories and positive contributions.
- Promote constructive public discourse grounded in facts—not fear or bias.

Philanthropic Practice

- Prioritize multi-year general operating grants for migrant-led organizations (at least 30% of funding).
- Invest in leadership development, networks, and infrastructure-building within the migrant advocacy ecosystem.

Action Items

Policymakers

- Propose establishment of dedicated immigration court dockets based on case type rather than geography.
- Develop streamlined affirmative application processes and a navigable bureaucracy.
- Repeal laws and end programs criminalizing migration under the "cimmigration" system.
- Allocate funding for universal representation and community navigation assistance.

Advocates

- Organize awareness campaigns countering dehumanizing rhetoric against migrants.
- Mobilize support for participatory research led by migrant communities.
- Coordinate advocacy for general support grants to migrant-led groups.
- Convene networks and events connecting migrant advocates globally.

Action Items, Continued

Researchers

- Conduct studies using participatory methods elevating migrant voices
- Standardize data collection tracking ethnicity/race in immigration enforcement.
- Partner with migrant communities to co-develop research projects and share ownership of results

Attorneys

- Provide pro bono representation paired with community navigators.
- Ensure language interpretation and cultural awareness in representing migrant clients.
- Speak out against unethical and predatory practices against migrants.

Funders

- Allocate general support grants with flexible spending terms for migrant-led groups.
- Develop programs specifically supporting leadership development of advocates.
- Fund participatory research projects defined and led by migrant communities.

Ultimately, participants reached a consensus that progress hinges on involving those most affected by the issues in guiding the vision and strategy at every phase. Through solidarity and allyship, external groups play pivotal roles in amplifying voices, redistributing resources, and coordinating surrounding support.

6 - ANNEX I. KEY FACTS ABOUT BLACK IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S.

Black immigrants have been a significant part of the fabric of the United States for centuries, contributing culturally, economically, and socially to the nation. Understanding the key facts and figures about this demographic group is essential in grasping their impact and challenges within the US

Population Size and Growth

As of 2022 and according to the American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample, there were approximately **4,279,497 Black immigrants residing in the United States**. This figure represents a **61% increase** from the estimated population in 2004, which recorded **2,657,097 Black immigrants** residing in the U.S.

Country of Origin Diversity

Black immigrants in the U.S. hail from countries in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and elsewhere. Notable countries contributing to this demographic include **Jamaica, Haiti, Somalia, Ghana, Nigeria, the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ethiopia**—with each country's diaspora bringing unique cultural heritage and traditions.

Age Distribution

According to the 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample, approximately 7.7% (328,324 individuals) of Black immigrants are children and youth aged 1 to 17. **The largest segment, about 34.5% (1,476,757 individuals) of the Black immigrant population falls within the ages of 35 to 51.** Around 13.8% (590,276 individuals) fall within the age bracket of 65 to 99.

Gender Identity

According to the 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample, approximately 51.7% Black immigrants (2.2 million individuals) identify as female.

Facts about Black Immigrants, Continued

LGBT Community

An estimated **27,056 same-sex couples** are part of the Black immigrant population, with **67% (18,815 couples) in marital unions**, per the 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample.

According to the UCLA Law School Williams Institute (which uses 2017 ACS estimates and Gallup Daily Survey Data), an estimated 8,300, or 2.9%, undocumented LGBT adult immigrants identify as Black. Documented Black LGBT adult immigrants comprise an estimated 60,700 or 6.2% of the documented population.

Educational Attainment

According to the 2023 Open Doors Report, **50,199 sub-Saharan African and 7,281 North African students are enrolled in U.S. education institutions. Caribbean students comprise approximately 11,692 individuals.**

Black immigrants have a diverse educational background, with a **significant portion (31%) holding at least a Bachelor's degree** from their home countries or US institutions, according to Pew Research Center. However, disparities exist in access to employment opportunities, leading to challenges in utilizing their skills. According to the Migration Policy Institute, **Black people with four-year degrees or higher are 54% more likely to be underemployed.**

Income and Economic Contributions

Black immigrants contribute significantly to the U.S. economy through various industries and sectors. According to New American Economy, in 2018, "Black immigrant households **earned \$133.6 billion, paid \$36.0 billion in taxes (\$22.8 billion in federal income tax and \$13.2 billion in state and local taxes), and had a spending power of \$97.6 billion.**"

However, Black immigrants have a higher likelihood of being working poor in comparison to other populations. According to the Migration Policy Institute, **46% of Black immigrants were working poor in 2019.**

Facts about Black Immigrants, Continued

Disability

According to the 2022 ACS 1-Year Estimates Public Use Microdata Sample, 419,398 Black immigrants (nearly 10%) are living with disabilities. In their analysis of 2015 to 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) integrated public-use microdata, Urban Institute found that **“one in 10 (10.2 percent) non-elderly Black Latine immigrants reported having a disability**, the highest share among all racial and ethnic groups examined.”

According to the 2021 Current Population Survey - Disability Supplement, 80,095 Black immigrants, or **31% of those surveyed, reported having to leave a job due to a disability**. Other barriers to progress cited by survey participants included lack of training and education (27,663); transportation (13,695); employer and coworker attitudes (12,649); and loss of government assistance (nearly 10,000).

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

In FY 2022, 11,358 migrants from Africa and 2,485 from Latin America and the Caribbean were admitted into the United States as refugees, according to the United States Refugee Admission Program. **Migrants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo represented the largest share of refugee arrivals overall, at 30.67% (7,810)**. According to Refugee Council USA, In FY 2023, 24,481 migrants from Africa and 6,312 from Latin America and the Caribbean were admitted and resettled as refugees in the United States.

Undocumented and Temporary Legal Statuses

According to the Migration Policy Institute, **the African undocumented migrant population is estimated at around 295,000 individuals. Caribbean undocumented migrants in the United States total approximately 327,000 individuals**.

African recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) stand at approximately 3,170 individuals, per the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service. Roughly 7,750 DACA recipients hail from the Caribbean region.

According to the Congressional Research Service, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients from Africa and the Caribbean comprise 1,880 migrants from Ethiopia, 164,235 from Haiti, 470 from Somalia, 120 from South Sudan, and 1,015 from South Sudan.

Facts about Black Immigrants, Continued

Discrimination

In the 2023 KFF/LA Times Survey of Immigrants, a majority of employed Black immigrants surveyed (56%) reported experiencing discrimination at their workplace. Additionally, nearly four in ten (38%) Black immigrants stated they have faced unfair treatment by the police.

More than four in ten respondents (45%) reported being told to "go back to where you came from," while nearly the same proportion (38%) stated they have experienced differential or unfair treatment from healthcare providers.

Political Engagement and Advocacy

Black immigrant communities actively engage in advocacy efforts, striving for representation and policy changes that address their unique needs. **In the November 8, 2022 election, the count of self-reported Black immigrant voters amounted to 1,228,791 individuals.** This figure represents the active participation of Black immigrants in the electoral process during that specific election cycle.

The **total number of eligible Black immigrant voters**, defined as those who are naturalized citizens of the United States and aged 18 and above, is estimated at **2.5 million individuals**.

Organizations and grassroots movements advocate for immigration reforms, social justice, and equality for Black immigrants. A non-exhaustive list of Black immigrant organizations to follow: Cameroon Advocacy Network, Mauritanian Network for Human Rights in the US, Haitian Bridge Alliance, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, African Communities Together, UndocuBlack Network, Black Immigrants Bail Fund, Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP), The Person Center, African Services Committee, African Bureau for Immigration and Social Affairs, Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees, and African Advocacy Network.

By recognizing the nuances and diversity of Black immigrants in the United States, policymakers, advocates, service providers, and society at large can work towards creating inclusive policies and fostering a more equitable environment for all immigrants in the United States.

7 - COMING SOON

This report is part of a larger project, *Behind Closed Doors: Black Migrants and the Hidden Injustices of U.S. Immigration Courts*, by Nana Afua Y. Brantuo, Ph.D. and published by the Ohio Immigrant Alliance.

Check illusionofjustice.org for:

Diaspora Dynamics: An Annotated Bibliography on Black Migrants' and Immigrants' Experiences in the U.S.
(January 2024)

Immigration Law and the Illusion of Justice
(February 2024)

Behind Closed Doors: Black Migrants and the Hidden Injustices of U.S. Immigration Courts
(March 2024)



Left to right: Daniel Tse; Oumar Ball; Houleye Thiam; Amik Felix Andong; Bachirou Tambadou

“Dystopia, Then Deportation” is part of

Behind Closed Doors: Black Migrants & the Hidden injustices of U.S. Immigration Courts

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