

Black Immigrants and 2020 Census:
#CheckBlackPlus

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Dorian Spence
Director of Special Litigation
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights



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Nana Gyamfi
Executive Director
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)



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Census Day
April 1, 2020

Census Deadline
August 14, 2020



Quick Recap

2018 - 2019

- March 26, 2018 Commerce Department Announcement Citizenship Announcement
- Problematic
 - Census has a history of undercounting communities of color
 - Especially Black communities
- Census is used to determine how over \$600 billion of federal funds is spent
 - Education, Medicaid, Medicare B, Roads etc...
- If communities of color aren't counted then they will be underfunded.



Quick Recap

2018 - 2019

- April 17, 2018, the Lawyers' Committee and BAJI joined forces
- Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) v. Ross
- Challenged the citizenship question
 - Argument - The citizenship question would lead to an undercount of communities of color.
- June 27, 2019, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled
 - NO citizenship question on the 2020 Census
- By now, you should have received your 2020 Census Questionnaire
- Nana Gyamfi



Question is:
Who counts?

→ The Enumeration Clause in the
U.S. Constitution
(Article 1, sections 1 & 2)



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Are non citizens
'persons' for
purposes of the
Census?



US Census has historically been a tool of white power and privilege:

- Three-Fifths Compromise and Currently Imprisoned People
- Public Benefits
- Private Resources



This Administration intends for us to be severely undercounted:

- Secretary Ross and Department of Commerce predict/expect an undercount
- Census Bureau says will result in undercount of millions of people
- Recent revelations re plan to use Census undercount to redistrict



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Black immigrants are part of ALL
Hard to Colonize communities



- Race question -
#CheckBlackPlus &
Diaspora Dialogues
- We experience anti-Blackness no matter our ethnicity. We need to #UnitetheDiaspora in our fight for resources and representation. More than being counted- gives us an opportunity to practice flexing our collective muscle



- Language access: Census doesn't adequately address majority of our languages. (Haitian Creole)
- Many of our most vulnerable people also not necessary literate in our languages. Need Census Navigators to help folks complete



- Safety concerns: We are not counted above everything. Safety is IMPORTANT. Census survey questions can be intrusive. Covid-19 has changed how census outreach is being done.
- If not safe for you to answer survey, try to get someone else from our community who can do so more safely to answer it.
- Also we need to assist our community members in our safe spaces. Our people don't need to be corralled into public spaces - where they are susceptible to capture by ICE/law enforcement.



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CONTACT US

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@BAJItweet |  facebook.com/BAJIpage |  @InstaBAJI



Questions about the census? Problems filling out the form? **CALL OUR HOTLINES!**



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888-COUNT20 (888-268-6820)

English



877-ELCENSO (877-352-3676)

English / Español



ASIAN AMERICANS
**ADVANCING
JUSTICE**

844-202-API (844-202-0274)

English / Asian languages (Mandarin,
Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog,
Urdu, Hindi, Bengali/Bangla)



833-3DDOUNI (833-333-6864)

English / Arabic