



## State of The Country and Social Concerns Committee Reports *ACT NOW to End Racism, The Role of the Freedom Church*

152<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Virginia Annual Conference  
**The Right Reverend W. Darin Moore**  
Presiding Bishop

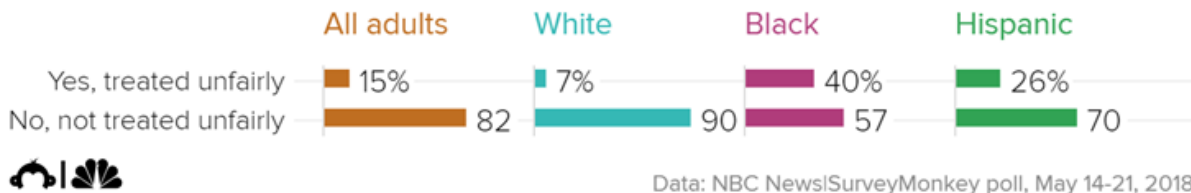
### **ACT NOW to End Racism, The Role of the Freedom Church**

Prepared by Co-chairs Joshua Paul Logan, Rev. Willmers Williams, and Committee Members.

Racism in America has come full circle and reached levels of intensity that supersede the Era of the Civil Rights Movement. The impact of racism has increased due to the refined professionally clandestine strategies, devised by the perpetrators of racist exertions.

**An MSNBC Poll reports** a majority of Americans say racism remains a major problem in American society and politics. Overall, 64 percent of those polled stated racism remains a major problem in their society. Thirty percent agreed that racism exists today, but insist that racism isn't a major problem.

### Treated unfairly in a store or restaurant based on your race?



Forty percent of African-Americans say they were treated unfairly in a store or restaurant because of their race in May 2018, compared to 25 percent of Hispanics and only 7 percent of whites.

Earlier in May, three black Airbnb guests in Southern California were detained after a white neighbor called the police. About a week later, a white Yale University student [called the police when she found a black student napping in the common room of their dorm.](#) Also in May, a [video of a white woman who called the police on a black family barbecuing by a lake](#) in Oakland, California, surfaced and went viral.

In February, the restaurant chain [Applebee's apologized and fired three employees](#) for their involvement in racially profiling [two African-American customers, falsely accusing them of not paying their check.](#) A video of the incident went viral, prompting the apology.

In April, another viral video showed two black men in Philadelphia being arrested, after Starbucks employees [called 911 to say the men were trespassing.](#)



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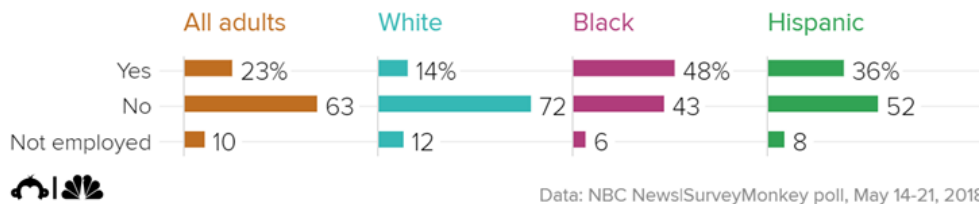
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Other recent incidents include ordinary citizens being harassed or questioned [for speaking Spanish](#), such as the Manhattan attorney who berated restaurant employees on camera, for speaking the language and threatening to call immigration authorities, and the [Border Patrol agent who detained two women for speaking Spanish at a Montana gas station](#).

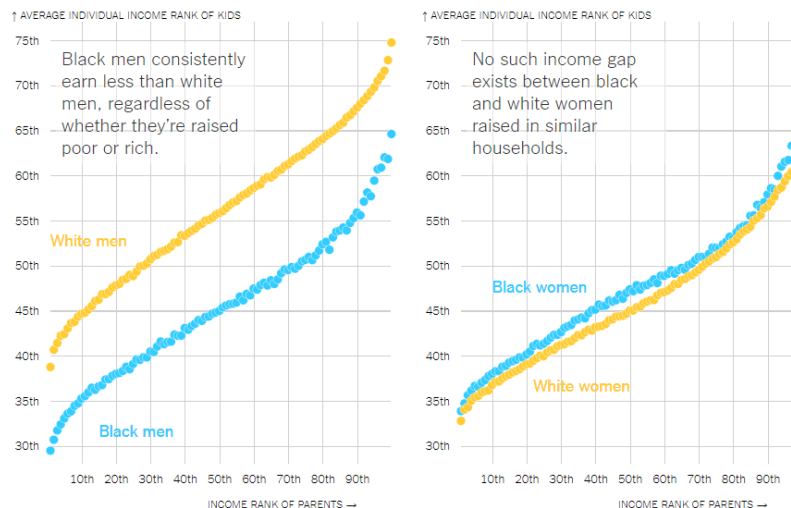
About [48 percent of African-Americans](#) said they've experienced [workplace discrimination](#) based on their race compared to [36 percent of Hispanics](#) and only 14 percent of whites.

### Experienced discrimination in workplace based on your race?



**The New York Times reports**, according to Stanford, Harvard, and the Census Bureau studies, that [African American boys raised in America, even in the wealthiest families, and living in some of the most well-to-do neighborhoods, still earn less in adulthood than Caucasian boys with similar backgrounds](#).

Large income gaps persist between men — but not women.





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The research makes clear that there is something unique about the obstacles facing African American males. The gap between Hispanics and whites is narrower. Asian-Americans earn more than whites raised at the same income level. **Only Native Americans have an income gap comparable to African-Americans.** But the disparities are widest for African American males.

Other studies show that **males, across races**, are more sensitive than girls to disadvantages like growing up in poverty or facing discrimination. ***While black women also face negative effects of racism, black men often experience racial discrimination differently.*** As ***early as preschool, they are more likely to be disciplined in school.*** They are ***pulled over, detained, searched, and sometimes subjected to violence at the hands police officers*** more often than others.

**Noelle Hurd**, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia states, “It’s not just being black but being male that has been hyper-stereotyped in this negative way, in which ***we’ve made black men scary, intimidating, with a propensity toward violence.***”

**Huffington Post’s Byron Allen wrote**, “The great American hero **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** told us 50 years ago in one of his last speeches, “The Other America,” there are two Americas. One has privilege, education, housing, jobs, access to capital, and economic inclusion. And the other America does not. These two separate Americas will not survive.”

Unfortunately, the speech that Dr. King gave a little over 50 years ago reverberates a disturbing ever-present reality. ***Every day we are seeing the ugly symptoms of two Americas.*** Whether it is Ferguson, Oakland, or Baltimore, the systemic escalation of racial bias aggressively continues.

We as comrades in the **resurgent, revolutionary Freedom Church**, are challenged by the legacy of our forefathers to **ACT NOW to End Racism**, by aggressively engaging the following where ever we have ecclesiastic assets or active relationships, **to end racism we must:**

1. **ACT NOW by creating** housing opportunities, education, jobs, access to capital, and economic inclusion for every American.
2. **ACT NOW by engaging Education reform:**
  - a. We should consider investing capital and resources, to establish our own nationally syndicated education system for the educating of minority and under privileged children, through out the Episcopal District, properly preparing children and youth for college-level and post graduate education.
  - b. We should hire college students to tutor these pre-K through 12 students.
3. **ACT NOW by engaging in the establishment of a National Nonprofit Social Service and Community Development Corporation to train and develop our own Team of certified professionals to:**



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- a. Service Minorities and others challenged with Opioid, prescription drug, illegal substance addictions, and mental health conditions. People who are currently being treated with legalized narcotics that create even further, more powerful addictions, and sometimes terminal physical health issues.
  - b. Train and develop individuals to lead local chapters of the nonprofit, in capacity building, board governance, and strategic program development and technical support.
  - c. Provide results driven, transformational, faith-based crisis intervention, for victimizers and the victimized, of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
4. **ACT NOW** by engaging the **Real Estate Industry** to ensure access to fair housing and non-predatory home loans.
  5. **ACT NOW** by engaging the **Banking System, establishing our own National Banking System** that makes business loans to African-American and minority owned businesses.
  6. **ACT NOW** by engaging **Equality, Injustice, and Mass Incarceration**, by collectively reengaging in social actions on local, state, and national levels.
  7. **ACT NOW** by engaging **Corporate Institutionalized Racism**.
  8. **ACT NOW** by engaging **our youth and young adults**, encouraging them to join the ranks of nationally organized anti-gun violence movements, like “Never Again” and “March for Our Lives.”
  9. **ACT NOW** by engaging **sincere Youth Mentorship Initiatives**.
  10. **ACT NOW** by engaging **the forces of darkness**, that have now begun to replicate the historically enslaved plantation mentality, of separating parents from their children, destroying the family structure of minorities, in the racist disguise of immigration reform and border protection.
  11. **ACT NOW** by engaging by establishing **Faith Based Community Services “Outside”**, outside of the structural boundaries of antiquated church rituals and denominational obstructionist.
  12. **ACT NOW** by engaging **The Political Establishment** with candidates of our choosing.
  13. **ACT NOW** by engaging in **the establishment of a stand alone Political Action Committee**, tasked with identifying candidates who support The Kingdom Agenda, and ensuring the necessary resources and votes are rallied for their successful elections.
  14. **ACT NOW** by **leading Kingdom Revolutionaries**, in assimilating a powerful ethnically diverse, unified America, into being one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and Justice for all!
  15. **ACT NOW** by **awakening the sleeping AMEZ giant**, awakening the revolutionary legacy of liberation, through the intentional and strategically engaged actions, of the **Freedom Church!**



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16. **ACT NOW** by **fulfilling the Apostolic Mandate of our King**, *to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, preach deliverance to the captives, recover sight to the blind, and set at liberty, them that are bruised!*

The Role of the Freedom Church in this racially charged, politically paralyzed, culturally marginalized, self-induced psychosis of racism, is to be reminded, that **“WE ARE THE DREAM” that Martin dreamed,** and we must now **provoke a Resurgence or Revival of Revolutionaries,**  
**to awake out of their sleep**  
and **ACT NOW!**

Respectfully Submitted

Joshua P. Logan

The State of the Country Committee: Audrey Jones, Vanessa Hinton, Rebecca Branch-Griffin, Antonio Walker, Joyce Brown, Joseph Whitney, Brandon Praileau, Leon Hutchinson, and Tiarra Murdaugh



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### **Social Concerns Report**

African American are some of the most affected by the opiate crisis.

When we look at the opiate crisis in the United States, most people have a mental image of those who are most commonly affected by this epidemic. If we reflect on the past, in most people's minds, the "typical" junkie was a white person shooting up heroin under a bridge in the middle of a city, on the outskirts of town, or they were the homeless man or woman asking you for spare change when you're walking out of a grocery store. Over time, the "typical" addict has changed. Now, a lot of white kids from suburban communities who got hooked on painkillers subsequently got hooked on heroin. These are your high school athletes or your studious 20-somethings now attending college. That's who we think the opiate crisis has hit the hardest, and that's what's being publicized.

The U.S. Surgeon General said on Twitter, "In 2016, Black and African American youth 12-17 were most likely than whites to have used opiates in the past year. This data shows that we are moving in the wrong direction and may be a precursor too even more opioid overdose fatalities in the black community in coming years.

The problem is that typically the media covers white, rural, and suburban communities in regard to the opiate crisis, and talk about all the chaos and devastation but only in one demographic. The reality is that many other racial groups have been irreparably harmed by the opiate problem, including Native Americans who, by 2014, had the highest overdose death rate by opiates.

Week by week, day by day, and hour by hour, the opiate crisis pushes forward, leaving nothing but devastation, chaos, heartache, and loss in its wake and it's not only happening to white people. We need to get the picture out of our heads of the J Crew looking white kids as being the main victims of the opiate crisis because it's happening to everyone. We can't overlook the massive amount of overdose deaths in the African American communities. The fact of the matter is, we're all people and we all have the ability to overdose and die. We need to work together to eradicate this dilemma.

Why Churches Should Be at the Forefront of Combating this Epidemic and Why

"Alcohol and drug addiction are serious matters that confront every community"

All too often, local churches and pastors become aware of serious problems such as underage drinking or opioid abuse during a crisis or when confronted with tragic circumstances.



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In the midst of such an environment, it is vital to promote and foster ongoing healthy and open dialogue with factual information about addiction prevention, intervention steps, treatment, and long-lasting recovery.

A critical step in holistic ministry on addiction issues is to offer opportunities for church members to become engaged in addiction advocacy and ministry.

Active engagement in addiction prevention transforms communities and encourages healthier environments in which adults and young people can thrive without resorting to societal pressures to drink or take drugs.

What can the church do?

Through the District Health Coordinators plan 4 educational forums per year.

Invite Physicians /Nurse Practitioners

Methadone Counselors- Purpose

Health Department- Availability of Programs

Law enforcement-Drug take Back program

School Counselors- Effects on children

Substance Abuse professionals

Politicians-Government

SA Survivors

Peer Recovery Supporters

All local health Coordinators

Parents-Educate

Grandparents-Educate

Environmental Specialist- Disposal of Drugs

Probation Officers



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Respectfully Submitted

The Social Concerns Committee

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