



Office of African American Affairs

# MALE ADVOCACY

## Black Men Need Support

Black men continue to work hard and persevere even with a society that is systematically created to marginalize Black people.

As an effort to combat systemic racial oppression against Black men, it's important to consider the experiences that Black men must navigate on a daily basis. This means, viewing the different systems and how they affect Black men from an intersectionality lens. To completely understand the different aspects of Black men's life, there must be an observation of the following categories:

- Education – in 2019 only 28% of Black men between ages 25-29 and only 4% have a Master's degree (both categories being the lowest of Black women and White men and women)
- Upward mobility – Black men are less likely to rise the income ladder and are most likely to be stuck in poverty.
- Earnings – Black workers earn less than white workers in general.
- Unemployment during the Covid-19 pandemic – Black men have the highest unemployment rate of civilian non-institutionalized Black and white men and women over age 20.
- Life Expectancy – Black men are more likely to die prematurely.
- Covid-19 Death – Black men have been the most likely to die with a death rate that is 2.4 times higher than white men.

Although there are multiple inequities present, there are some things that you can do to help support and mobilize Black men:

Avoid partaking in the stigmatizations of Black men. These are not only detrimental in a social, but also economic front.

Provide a space for vulnerability. It can be difficult and detrimental for Black men to ask for help so creating safe spaces can provide tremendous support for dealing with everyday hardships and stress.

(Perspective) Address masculine norms, racism, and within-group differences. Identifying toxic historical aspects of masculinity and creating work groups to address them can also be initial first steps to treating deeply rooted issues. ([American Psychology Association](#))

Let us know some creative ideas you can think of in creating safe spaces for Black men.



“I am what time, circumstance, history, have made of me, certainly, but I am also, much more than that. So are we all.”

– James Baldwin

## Article Reference



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