

National “Black Love Beyond Borders” Convening to Unite the African World Community: African Americans and U.S. Black Immigrants



Close to 400 Black community members, leaders, organizers and activists from around the world, including Canada, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Venezuela, Mexico and the United States, participated in the Black Immigration Network (BIN) Kinship Assembly April 8 to April 10 (2016) in Los Angeles, California. Gathering with the theme Black Love Beyond Borders, the event was the 5th national convening of the Black Immigration Network.

BIN, the nation’s only black-led national organization of more than 40 immigrant rights groups, brought the activists together to help tackle myriad issues facing Black immigrants and African Americans in the fight for justice in the U.S. The assembly addressed a wide variety of topics including immigrant rights, refugee rights, physical and mental health, labor and workers’ rights, international human rights/land struggles, LGBTQ issues, mass criminalization—detention, deportation, incarceration and surveillance, Islamophobia and international feminism.

Nationally and internationally respected Black leaders attended the convening including Emira Woods, Charlene Carruthers, umi selah, Lumumba Bundle, dream hampton and Elle Hearn. They were welcomed by LA community organizations African Communities Public Health Coalition, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Black Women for Wellness-LA and Los Angeles Black Workers Center. Organization representatives from Priority Africa Network, Black Youth Project 100, #BlackLivesMatter International, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Trans Women of Color Collective, National Domestic Workers Alliance, Million Hoodies, Queer Detainee Empowerment Project, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Dignity and Power Now, UndocuBlack, the Dream Defenders, Center for New Community and more presented throughout the three day program.

Often overlooked in the immigration discourse, nearly 4 million Black immigrants from countries in the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and Latin America live in the United States, comprising 10 percent of the U.S. foreign-born population and 8.7 percent of the Black population in the U.S.

For more details on BIN see: <http://blackimmigration.net> or contact Leonie Williams, Communications Director at leonie@blackalliance.org or (443) 803-1465.