Black Immigrants and 2020 Census: #CheckBlackPlus
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Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
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)
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
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.
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
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