

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025



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Black History Month

February is Black history month and as our way of acknowledging this month, I've added an excellent informational document from the Homeless Hub website. Please read and please share with your conferences and members. Systemic racism and the need to recognize and act on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion should be part of all of our work as Vincentians.

Like Indigenous Peoples, Black communities are disproportionately affected by homelessness, and they experience the highest rate of homelessness of any racialized community in Canada after Indigenous Peoples. Although only 4.3% of Canadians identified as Black in the 2021 census, 15.4% of youth experiencing homelessness nationally are Black, according to the second Without a Home survey. Black people are also twice as likely as white people to experience unsheltered homelessness, as indicated by the 2018 Canadian Housing Survey, and this proportion is even higher for Black women.



This disproportionate representation is concentrated in certain areas. For instance, in Toronto in 2021, 31% of the homeless population was Black, despite representing only 7.5% of the city's total population.

One reason for this disproportionate rate of homelessness is the failure of systems, namely the child welfare, education, and justice systems. Another reason is discrimination. These are all manifestations of anti-Black racism, which plays out at every level of society to systematically disadvantage Black people, making them more likely to experience homelessness at all stages of life. Someone with more privilege may not become homeless because of a lost job or family conflict, for instance, but the failure of systems for Black people makes this more likely.

