



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NAACP DC CALLS 100 BLACK MEN FOR PEACE & EMPOWERMENT IN RESPONSE TO RECENT SHOOTINGS IN DC

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The NAACP DC Branch calls *100 Black Men for Peace and Empowerment* on **Saturday, July 24, 2021** at 6:00pm beginning at 2931 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE Washington, DC. In response to the surge in gun violence and recent mass shootings in SE DC, we are calling 100 fathers, brothers, sons and black men from all 8 wards to urge peace and empowerment. Led by Brother Salim Adofo, NAACP DC Criminal Justice Chair and ANC Commissioner in ANC8C07 and Rev. Vincent Van, NAACP DC Religious Affairs Chair, they are inviting men of the community to lead by example to promote a safer and healthier community. RSVP at [100BlackMen.Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/100-black-men-for-peace-and-empowerment-tickets-15444444444)

Gun violence disproportionately impacts communities of color in the United States, as the number one killer of African Americans between ages 15 and 34. The NAACP advocates to help eliminate or decrease the damage and death caused by gun violence. The NAACP DC Branch Criminal Justice Committee advocates to build stronger families and empower communities, while advocating to reduce gun violence and racial inequalities in our criminal justice system.

On Friday, July 16th, 6 people were shot in a drive-by shooting in SE Washington, DC. This shooting included the death of a 6-year old girl, Nyiah Courtney. As of July 2021, there have been 106 homicides in Washington, DC, which is an increase from July of last year. There have been 361 mass shootings nationwide this year. African Americans are only 13% of the U.S. population, but represent nearly 50% of all gun homicide victims.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “Black lives are a priority in all spaces, especially in our own communities. Ending gun violence starts with community accountability and empowerment.” Salim Adofo, NAACP DC Criminal Justice Chair, stated, “These are systemic issues that have been happening within the community for decades, and we believe being able to connect the community with resources will put us on the right path.” Rev. Vincent Van, NAACP DC Religious Affairs Chair, stated, “This gathering will show the city that we aren’t willing to wait and hope things will turn around, but actively adding leading a collective movement.”

ABOUT NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

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