

# ABOLITIONIST SANCTUARY

REPAIR. RESTORE. REBUILD.



**ABOLITIONIST SANCTUARY**  
Repair. Restore. Rebuild.

## VISION

We envision building a coalition of economic and legal sanctuaries for Black women, mothers, and system-impacted communities to thrive in a more just and equitable society beyond punishment, discriminatory policing and prisons.

## ABOUT

Nikia Smith Robert, PhD is the Founder and Executive Director of Abolitionist Sanctuary. She is an interdisciplinary public scholar and practicing abolitionist. Raised in abject poverty in Harlem, New York, to a single Black mother, Dr. Robert and her family struggled to overcome the government's unjust War on Drugs and the interlocking systems of oppression that ravaged her community. Abolitionist Sanctuary emerged from Dr. Robert's lived experiences and expands upon her groundbreaking research and forthcoming book.

*Dr. Nikia S. Robert*

## FACTS:

- Black women are 30 percent of all incarcerated women but represent only 13 percent of women in the U.S.
- Nearly 80 percent of incarcerated women are mothers.
- Single mothers in the U.S. have the highest poverty rates in comparison to those in all industrialized countries
- 8 out of 10 Black mothers are breadwinners, who are either the sole earner or earn at least 40 percent of household income.

## MISSION

Abolitionist Sanctuary's mission is to build a national coalition united against the moral crisis of mass incarceration.

As educators, we train leaders to apply abolitionist principles and transformative justice strategies to repair, restore, and rebuild a more just and equitable society.

As consultants, we create diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging solutions that affirm the inherent worth of underrepresented groups, especially impoverished Black mothers.

## CORE VALUES

### COMPASSION • CARE • CREATIVITY • COURAGE

We advocate for **compassion** as a communal response rooted in accountability, rather than punishing individuals who are disadvantaged by systemic injustices and targeted as deviant for transgressing dominant social standards.

We illuminate the radical practice of **care** for the most vulnerable by advocating for their fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and freedom.

We affirm the power of **creativity** in individual agency and collective values to imagine new pathways, policies, and programs toward a more just society.

We believe that **courage** is needed to challenge punitive teachings and practices that diminish the inherent dignity of people incarcerated, especially impoverished Black mothers

We build community by training a national coalition to use abolitionist principles and transformative justice values as a life-generating pathway to social thriving and an alternative to the vices of condemnation, neglect, complicity, cowardice, and individualism that reinforce the carceral state.



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