



STATEMENT ON HISTORIC 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: BIDEN - HARRIS WIN

"I am, was, and always will be a catalyst for change." - Shirley Chisholm

Rocked The Black Vote. Ever since Black Americans won the right to vote, we've done just that. Despite a pandemic and rampant voter suppression, we've cast ballots by all means available. This election has once again shown how the [Black vote is key](#). At the tail end of an exhausting year, this hard-fought win proves the power of Black community mobilization. We are grateful for our [Black Treatment Advocates Network](#) (BTAN) and BAI organizers who contributed to ensuring Black voices were heard.

Calling Out Racism and Anti-Blackness. President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' acknowledgment of systemic white supremacy is a new chapter in the dismantling of institutional racism. We can't purge 400+ years of whiteness that permeates every aspect of our daily lives in four years. But we are cautiously optimistic about this new leadership and demand accountability so that Black people can move toward *complete freedom*.

HIV/AIDS Agenda. It's time for the federal government to once again prioritize community expertise to end the epidemic in Black communities. We hope to see resurrected efforts around the Obama-Biden administration's National HIV/AIDS Strategy, reinstatement of the Office of National AIDS Policy, as well as Black leadership and increased diversity for the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). While work has begun on the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative, it will continue to falter if it doesn't center Black community and voices.

Black Women Get It Done. Kamala Harris' historic vice-presidential nomination drew a record number of votes from people of color. Her [stand on a range of issues](#) impacting Black Americans and strong campaign performance validated [the Biden campaign's assessment of her win-contribution](#). Also a game-changer is Stacey Abrams, whose crusade against voter suppression has flipped Georgia from red to blue. Despite losing the GA governor's seat due to voter suppression, [Abrams's commitment to ending voter suppression was instrumental in the Biden win](#). As always, Black women carry the burden of our democracy. Now it's time to lift us up in reciprocity. Give us our flowers, stand with us, and for us.



Our People. Our Problem. Our Solution. The BAI team has powered through the onslaught of the Trump administration. **2020:** Launched [We The People](#), a national campaign and report that is a roadmap to ending the HIV epidemic among Black people; **2019:** Re-branded to amplify our *uniquely and unapologetically Black* approach; **2018:** Founder and renowned activist Phill Wilson passed the baton to [current CEO & President Raniyah Copeland](#); **2018:** Launched [A Clinic For Us](#) program in Los Angeles to provide Black and under-served Angelinos with culturally appropriate, direct health services and safe spaces.

We showed up, showed out, and won. The next victory is ending HIV in Black communities. We've got us.

**Black Votes Matter,
Raniyah**