

Black Women's Caucus of Washington State

FACT SHEET

*year  
may! - apr 30*

The Black Women's Caucus is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Washington. This caucus has been in existence since the State Women's Conference in July, 1977 in conjunction with International Women's Year, and is an outgrowth of numerous meetings of Black women throughout the state. The purpose of the Caucus is to define the barriers preventing Black women from fully participating in the mainstream of society and to set forth a course of action directing their efforts, resources and talents towards the removal of these barriers.

The fate of Black Americans as a racial minority group and the development of Black women in the U.S. are intricately bound together. We have a long history of vital concern for civil liberties, and each generation of Black women has contributed mightily to the long struggle for the rights of women. The social, political, and cultural background of Black American women differs greatly from that of other women and, as a consequence, we view the world differently and have different priorities and experiences.

It is doubtful that anyone else can or should speak for us and our communities. We assume the responsibility of our own interpretation of women's mission, believing that it is only on the basis of sound, historically correct analysis that we may organize effectively around our specific experiences as Black women and press not only for women's rights, but more importantly, for human rights.

A constitution governing the operation of the Caucus was adopted on January 7, 1978 in Seattle at a statewide meeting of Black women. The State organization is divided into 4 areas, basically regarded as the northwest, southwest, southeast and northeast quadrants. Officers have been serving on an interim basis on the state level as well as the 4 area levels. The activities of the Caucus have centered around issues identified by Black women. A more thorough Plan of Work to be adopted at the 1st Annual Meeting in April will determine the course of actions for the coming year.

With the active participation of Black women throughout Washington State, the Caucus can be a very powerful force in our communities and can effect those changes from which we can all benefit.

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*NW AREA*