

**Ontario Black Gay Men's Summit  
Cultures of Sexuality and Black Men's Health**

March 26-28, 2010. Ramada Plaza Hotel, Toronto

**Draft Summit Declaration**

The Ontario Black Gay Men's Summit – Cultures of Sexuality and Black Men's Health - was organized by a Community Steering Committee on behalf of the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO). The Summit was an outcome of the MaBwana Black Men's Study of vulnerability to HIV among African, Caribbean and Black gay men in Toronto.

The objectives of the Summit were to:

- Engage African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen, and queer men around issues related to health, community and HIV
- Develop recommendations for ACCHO on issues of health and HIV/AIDS for African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men
- Disseminate and discuss the findings and implications of the MaBwana Black Men's Study
- Facilitate the development of networks for African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men transmen and queer men in Ontario
- Develop shared understandings of social justice and enhance the leadership potential of African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen, and queer men in their local communities
- Develop shared understandings of cultures of Black sexuality

Inspired by the experiences of African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men in Canada, Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere, and mindful that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights" as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

1. The Black Gay Men's Summit Community Steering Committee and Summit participants affirm:
  - (a) the value of our lives as African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men
  - (b) that African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men are productive members of our societies and communities in Canada, Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere
  - (c) that African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men continue to experience discrimination and marginalization in African, Caribbean and Black communities because of their sexual orientation and identity
  - (d) that African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men continue to experience discrimination and marginalization in Canada based on their sexual orientation and identity, ethnoracial background, and immigration status
  - (e) that African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men, like other African, Caribbean and Black people, are disproportionately affected by HIV and AIDS

- (f) that stigma and discrimination affect the health and wellbeing of African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men in Canada, Africa, the Caribbean and elsewhere
- (g) that African, Caribbean and Black gay and bisexual men, transmen and queer men are resilient despite our experiences of stigma and discrimination
- (h) our solidarity with African, Caribbean and Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people in Canada and worldwide
- (i) our commitment to the wellbeing of all African, Caribbean and Black people in Canada and worldwide.

2. The Black Gay Men's Summit Community Steering Committee and Summit participants call on African, Caribbean and Black communities and community leaders in Canada to:

- (a) recognize that African, Caribbean and Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people deserve the respect enjoyed by other members of our communities
- (b) take steps to address homophobia and transphobia in African, Caribbean and Black communities in Canada
- (c) exercise responsibility and leadership in the struggle against homophobia, transphobia and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people in Africa and the Caribbean
- (d) take steps to support the health and wellbeing of African, Caribbean and Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people, including young people who face the disapproval of their families and peers.

3. The Black Gay Men's Summit Community Steering Committee and Summit participants call on governments and institutions in Canada to:

- (a) take steps to ensure that publicly funded programs and services support the dignity, rights and citizenship of all African, Caribbean and Black people in Canada, including African, Caribbean and Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people
- (b) take steps to ensure that African, Caribbean and Black people in Canada, including African, Caribbean and Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people, enjoy the same rights as other members of society
- (c) urge governments of African and Caribbean countries to respect and uphold the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people in their countries.
- (d) support organizations in Africa and the Caribbean that are working to defend the rights and promote the wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people in Africa and the Caribbean.

4. The Black Gay Men's Summit Community Steering Committee and Summit participants call on governments and societies in Africa and the Caribbean to:

- (a) uphold and protect the rights and security of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people living in Africa and the Caribbean
- (b) Repeal legislation that supports discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people living in Africa and the Caribbean
- (c) take steps to support the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people living in Africa and the Caribbean.

**Send your comments on this draft declaration to [gbtqsummit@accho.ca](mailto:gbtqsummit@accho.ca)**