



February 24, 2020

RE: Policing of the African Nova Scotian Community by Halifax Regional Police

The ANSDPAD Coalition's Justice Strategy Working Group continues to work on justice and policing issues with its many partners. With the recent event over the weekend of the treatment of members of the African Nova Scotian (ANS) Community by Halifax Regional Police, DPAD continues to call for meaningful action that creates positive change between all policing agencies, DOJ and our Community. Each incident demonstrates the urgent need for Community, Police and Government to collaborate on the following work:

- To highlight the fact that street checks have not really been banned;
- To encourage people to request their personal street check data – and to not have it destroyed by police before people can do so;
- To assert that racial profiling continues to exist when police interact with members of the ANS community
- To call attention to police inability to use proper de-escalation techniques when interacting with ANS's;
- To remind all persons that the data regarding traffic stops in Halifax still have not been made public
- To draw attention to the increasing complaints of police brutality towards the ANS Community;
- To remind that over-incarceration and access to all equitable forms of justice for ANS continues to be grave concern with no apparent plan by the province and law enforcement to address this injustice;
- To reiterate that anti-Black racism in all dimensions of the criminal justice system and corrections arise from the legacy of enslavement and segregation

To address these issues the Coalition has proposed the development of an African Nova Scotian Justice Institute (ANSJI) and an ANS Policing Strategy (ANSPS). We currently do not have regular communications or planned meetings with justice professionals at any level to implement these initiatives though we have shared with you all our plans. If you would like to engage with us to advance the work of DPAD on these issues or to discuss with us our plans for an ANSJI and an ANSPS we offer an open invitation to plan to attend one of our regular meetings:

- Staff meet weekly every Tuesday at 10 am via ZOOM with a member of our Executive to discuss operations
- Our Justice Working Group meets at noon via ZOOM on the first Tuesday of every month
- Our Provincial membership meets from 2pm - 4pm in person at our offices and via ZOOM on the second Thursday of every month

To seek an invitation to any of these meetings please contact the ANSDPAD offices:

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