

## Who we are

**Neighborhood Care International Association** (NCI) is a networking coalition membership open to every person, business and non-profit organization that supports its purposes and vision.

## Vision

NCI's vision is to cultivate a global and inclusive community that cares for its neighbors.

## NCI's goals

NCI motivates and supports African & Black people in their journey of healing and to access justice. NCI provides a safe place where African and Black people can drop in, access legal services, participate in culture-based activities, be encouraged to overcome individual, systemic and institutional barriers based on racism and discrimination, and receive referrals to other organizations offering additional supports as needed.

NCI is in the process of seeking funding in order to expand cultural activities and advocacy services for African and Black people.

## Clinic description

The **African and Black Legal Clinic (ABLC)** is a joint project between Neighborhood Care International Association (NCI), Access Pro Bono of BC and the BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre.

The purpose of the ABLC is to provide free 1-hour legal advice appointments to African and Black people living in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES) and throughout Metro Vancouver, including providing services to African and Black people who live in low-income housing or who are homeless.

The goal of the ABLC is to provide an accessible, safe place for people to come and discuss their legal issues. All ABLC clinics will be staffed by volunteer lawyers and an interpreter fluent in several African languages, English and French.

## Yes! I want to support the Neighborhood Care International Association

Organizational Donation:  
\$\_\_\_\_\_ (to cover overhead expenses)

Please provide the following information (which will be kept confidential):

Name:

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal code:

Phone:

E- mail:

**Mail to:  
Neighborhood Care International  
Association**

Office 203 – 207 West Hastings,  
Vancouver, BC V6B 2N4

## The need for the ABLC

A high proportion of African people live in the DTES and surrounding areas. The DTES is often described as the poorest postal code in Canada, and some of the demographic characteristics of the DTES community include the following:

- Approximately 17,000 people live here;
- 37% of the population are women;
- 68% of the people who live here have low incomes;
- Approximately 5000 people live in single room occupancy housing and about 1600 people live in emergency shelters
- many of the people who live in the community are African & Black and many more live in surrounding areas and come to the DTES daily for support services and other activities; and
- many of the African & Black people who live in or come to the community have multiple addictions, are dual diagnosis, suffer extreme shame and grief for having lost their children to foster care/adoption, are often alienated from their families and community, and live in extreme poverty and operate at a minimal level of survival.

## Legal services covered by the ABLC

The ABLC will provide summary legal advice on a broad range of issues, including immigration and refugee, family, civil litigation, criminal, police harassment, human rights violations including racism, employment standards, and government benefits including welfare and employment insurance.

*"In the face of great need there is great hope." Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## Caring- Dialogue-Partnership

NCI is a registered, non-profit society under the British Columbia Society Act.

# AFRICAN AND BLACK LEGAL CLINIC



neighborhoodcare.org

**Are you struggling to make  
ends meet?**

**Call today**  
to schedule an appointment  
**604-349-2420**