

Black Socialism and Solidarity

Dianna Freelon-Foster and Andrew Hairston
2024 Biennial Meeting - Dignity in Schools Campaign
Richmond, Virginia

Definitions of Socialism

Public infrastructure - healthcare, education, housing, utilities, and social services for all

Workers' ownership of the means of production, e.g. worker co-ops

Mutual aid networks

Reproductive freedom and queer & trans liberation

Disability justice

Absence of police, prisons, and other manifestations of the carceral state

Other Definitions of Socialism?

Peter H. Clark, 1829-1925

The first explicit Black socialist in America

In his biography, it is noted that resentment grew against Black workers who were striking for better wages during Reconstruction

These workers faced many blockades - like white tradesmen who unionized to block them

“His political destiny was inextricably linked to the progress of African Americans collectively”

Never achieved political office, but his commitment to the ideology was clear

Socialism and Black Feminism

Claudia Jones

(<https://jacobin.com/2023/02/claudia-jones-communist-theory-black-feminism-internationalism>)

Combahee River Collective - Black women organizing for racial and gender justice

Mary Helen Washington

(<https://cupblog.org/2014/04/09/video-mary-helen-washington-on-african-american-and-the-communist-party/>)

Stigma Around Socialism

Legacy of McCarthyism

Present efforts to censor Black radical thought

Comparisons to other countries like Venezuela and Cuba

Prevalence of white supremacy and the difficulty of building mass multiracial movements of working class people across American history

Twenty First Century Black Solidarity

DSC National Week of Action 2023 - support during an anti-democratic blockade established by the Mississippi State Board of Education


Darryl George's Hearing - February 2024

Black Southern regional organizing - *Brown @ 70* and beyond




Dignity in Schools Campaign
Texas Talkback


Join DSC Members for a rich report about their recent Darryl George solidarity action in Texas!



Andrew Hairston



Ellen Reddy




Dianna Freelon-Foster



Kameisha Smith

MONDAY, MARCH 11TH
11:30AM EASTERN



Deanie Anyangwe

JOIN THE CALL HERE
[TINYURL.COM/DSC_TALKBACK](https://tinyurl.com/dscTalkback)

Clip of Mama Dianna from the Texas Talk Back

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VLxhJSg4K8&t=1510s> (start at 14:21-Mama Dianna's remarks)

Where does DSC fit into the struggle for Black Socialism and Solidarity?

DSC represents one of the best mechanisms to actualize Black Socialism and Solidarity in our present moment

Leveraging considerable resources to support fights for human rights in classrooms across the United States

Building relationships that allowed the DSC Week of Action in Mississippi to flow into Darryl George's hearing