***Social issues affecting African American race***

1.Systemic Racism: African Americans have faced systemic racism throughout history, leading to

disparities in areas such as education, employment, criminal justice, housing and healthcare. This

includes discriminatory practices, racial profiling and unequal treatment.

2.Economic Inequality: African Americans, on average, experience lower wages, higher rates of

unemployment, and limited access to wealth-building opportunities compared to their white

counterparts. This wealth gap has been influenced by historical factors such as slavery, segregation and

discriminatory policies.

3.Criminal Justice: African Americans are disproportionately affected by mass incarceration, racial

profiling and harsher sentencing. This issue is reflected in higher arrest rates, disproportionate

representation in prisons and instances of police violence and brutality.

4.Education Disparities: African Americans students often face unequal access to quality education,

which can to achievement gaps. Factors such as underfunded schools, resource disparities, and lack of

culturally relevant curriculum can hinder academic opportunities and long-term success.

5.Health Disparities: African Americans experience higher rates of certain health conditions, including

hypertension, diabetes and obesity. Disparities in healthcare access, cultural competency and systemic

biases contribute to these health inequities

6.Housing Inequality: African Americans have historically faced housing discrimination, including

practices like redlining and racial segregation. Limited access to affordable housing and disparities in

home ownership contribute to residential segregation and wealth disparities.

7.Voter Suppression: African American communities have historically faced obstacles to exercising their

right to vote, including discriminatory voter registration practices, gerrymandering voter ID laws and

reductions in polling locations. These actions can disproportionately affect African American voters.

8.Police Brutality and Racial Profiling: Instances of police violence and racial profiling disproportionately

affect African Americans. High-profile cases of police killings, such as those of George Floyd, Breonna

Taylor and many others, have sparked widespread protests and calls for police reform.

Some of the policies that will help include;

1.Criminal justice reform: Black men are drastically overrepresented in the prison population,

accounting for 32% of the prison population but only 6% of the overall US population. They are five

times more likely to be incarcerated during their lifetime then white men and they are more likely to

serve longer sentences than white men. This reality has multiplicative effects on the life chances of black

men. They face barriers in finding employment and housing, many loose the right to vote and may lack

access to social services, including federal student aid. All of this taken together reduces the economic

opportunities available to black men and hinders their role in social and family life. To address these

obstacles, criminal justice reform must be made a policy priority. The objective should be first to reduce

the number of black men behind bars and second, to improve their re-entry conditions.

2.Improving the education system: Black men have fewer opportunities to receive higher education

because those with felony record face limited access to federal student loans, moreover, many of the

service providers within the educational system do not cultivate the full potential of black male

students. Federal student loans should be made available to those with felony conviction because it will

provide many black people with the opportunities to further their education. Second, the infrastructure

of the education system should be improved to better support black students so that they can achieve

their full academic potential.

3.Improving employment rates and opportunities: As a starting place, improving educational outcomes

for black boys and men will consequently improve their chances in the labor market. But beyond that,

policy should aim to match unemployed black men with gaps in the labor market. Policy should respond

by providing scholarships and other incentives to encourage more black men to become nurses, health

aides, teachers, social workers and other similar professions.

4.Place-based policies: Black men and boys there should be greater investment in neighborhoods.

Effectively designed and implemented place-based policies can improve the chances for black men and

their families, and ultimately restore communities. Using the opportunity zone model, these policies can

provide neighborhoods with greater resources and invest money areas that need it.

5.Mentorship programs: mentorship programs have been a vital part of strengthening connections

within a community. Providing young black boys with access to a black male role model has the

potential to benefit them across several areas including their academic performance, mental health,

social and emotional well-being and preventing risky behaviors.

6.Reparations: Reparations can be used to correct the injustice and to reduce the disparities that remain

pervasive in society. The country must provide restitution for the centuries of the way that systemic

racism has operated in our country. The policy of reparations –including how they are issued, how they

are financed and at what level should be explored.