

## New York Urban League issues important 'State of Black New York' seminal report

By Audrey J. Bernard

On November 23, 2020, the behemoth **New York Urban League (NYUL)** issued its brilliant seminal report "The State of Black New York" covering vital, contemporary issues affecting Black people in New York City. The vital report is the first in over a decade in conjunction with Robin Hood Columbia University Poverty Tracker with support from United Way of New York City and New York Women's Foundation. The entire 53-page report is available to download at [www.nyul.org/sobny](http://www.nyul.org/sobny). Although the National Urban League launches a State of Black America Report each year, which is now in its 44<sup>th</sup> edition, this "The State of Black New York" is published by the NYUL and features a special preface by **Marc Morial**, President of the National Urban League.

As a blueprint for equality going forward, **Arva R. Rice**, President and CEO of the New York Urban League, is proud of the report. "We have inspired, influenced and ignited over one million Black people to achieve their highest potential. We are committed to elevating the circumstances that create inequalities in the lives of Black New York by headlining the issues and inspiring actions to eradicate them. At our core we believe that INEQUALITY IS UNACCEPTABLE."

Rice continued: "The State of Black New York' helps us to prioritize and strategically focus our work on efforts that will close the Black-white gap across the city of New York. It is our hope that this report will be used by private citizens, businesses, policymakers, non-profits, local, city, and state governments to drive implementation of policies, prioritization, and allocation of resources where Black New Yorkers need those most."

NYUL is a guiding principle and what drives steadfast work of enabling African Americans and other underserved communities to secure equity. Through direct service delivery, advocacy, referrals, community capacity building, information dissemination and technical assistance, the NYUL accomplishes its mission to empower communities and change lives. For more information, visit [www.nyul.org](http://www.nyul.org)

As a champion for equality and an outspoken opponent of racism, Rice recently addressed how our current crisis, COVID-19, is not too unlike America's original disease – racism. "As we work to recover from the impact of

COVID-19, we have again been reminded of America's original disease – racism," affirmed Rice. "Institutionalized racism led to the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna Taylor. Just as institutionalized racism led to the deaths of Emmett Till, Sean Bell, Amadou Diallo and Eric Garner, our country has a problem and we can only address it armed with data and empowered by public will."

Recently, Rice sat down for a Q&A to further explain her thoughts on the release of "State of Black New York Report" resonating with important key findings in the areas of Economics, Education, Digital Divide, Civic Engagement, Social (Criminal) Justice, and Health.

**Q:** What is "The State of Black New York" Report?

**A:** The "State of Black New York" report, our first in over a decade, covers vital, contemporary issues affecting African Americans in New York City. We commissioned the report to examine the position of Black households in the city's growth economy. We were particularly interested in examining and highlighting disparities among Black New Yorkers to then propose solutions across the New York Urban League's national program areas: Economics, Education, Digital Divide, Civic Engagement, Social (Criminal) Justice, and Health.

**Q:** How was "The State of Black New York" Report compiled?

**A:** Utilizing data from the National Urban League's 2019 National Equality Index™ and Robin Hood Poverty and Early Childhood Poverty Trackers, and key citywide data, the report highlights key indices related to New York City and the six focus areas. In addition, guest essayists, representing top minds in academia, politics and industry, have contributed their analyses and recommendations to this report, which is a comprehensive compilation of articles and essays along with the key statistics.

**Q:** Who are the prominent regional and national leaders that have contributed essays?

**A:** Reflecting on the findings, the following influential prominent regional and national leaders have contributed essays about the key topics covered in The State of Black New York Report including income inequality, education, mental health, criminal justice, civil engagement, equal opportunity



Arva R. Rice

and the digital divide, among other relevant topics:

**Q:** When was the last time this Report was published?

**A:** While the National Urban League launches a State of Black America Report each year, now in its 44<sup>th</sup> edition, this report is the first that the NYUL has published in more than ten years. Marc Morial, President of the National Urban League has contributed the preface to this New York report.

**Q:** How Will the New York Urban League Take Action Based on the Report?

**A:** NYUL State of Black New York helps us to prioritize and strategically focus our work on efforts that will close the Black-white gap across the city of New York. It is our hope that this report will be used by private citizens, businesses, policymakers, non-profits, local, city, and state governments to drive implementation of policies, prioritization, and allocation of resources where Black New Yorkers need those most. Our hope is that by shining a spotlight on these key issues, positive change can occur. Ultimately, we want to reach even more New Yorkers with

our current programs and by creating additional initiatives where the report shows a need.

**Q:** What is the NEW YORK URBAN LEAGUE CALL TO ACTION?

**A:** Use the State of Black New York to better understand where gaps and opportunities are in racial equality; Engage, advocate, and garner support from key leaders, stakeholders, businesses, and communities around a shared vision and plan to improve racial equality; Discuss, leverage, develop, and integrate racial equality goals into existing policies, programs and fiscal budgets Use the State of Black New York to advocate for policy, practices, and resources that improve racial equality; and Partner and/or support the work of the New York Urban League as we continue to advance policies and program recommendations to empower and improve the overall quality of life for Black and therefore all New Yorkers.

**Q:** How can someone get involved and support the work of The New York Urban League?

**A:** Donate. Learn more at <https://www.nyul.org/donate>; Volunteer. Learn more at

<https://www.nyul.org/volunteer>; become a member. <https://www.nyul.org/membership>; Attend and support our events <https://www.nyul.org/events>; and Donate now <https://www.nyul.org/donation-form>;

**Q:** Where can we get more information?

**A:** Join the conversation on Facebook (New York Urban League), IG (New York Urban League) and Twitter (@NYUrbanLeague).

### About The State of Black New York Report

The State of Black New York report was commissioned by The New York Urban League to examine the position of Black households in the city's growth economy. Utilizing data from the National Urban League's 2019 National Equality Index™ and Robin Hood Poverty and Early Childhood Poverty Trackers and key citywide data the report highlights disparities among Black New Yorkers and proposes solutions across the organization's program areas: Economics, Education, Digital Divide, Civic Engagement, Social (Criminal) Justice, and Health.