

VIRGIN ISLANDS YOUTH ADVOCACY COALITION, INC. (VIYAC)



CONCEPT DOCUMENT

A. **MOTTO/LOGO: Moving Valiantly Forward, Inspiring Our Fellow Youth to Succeed!**

B. MISSION STATEMENT: By way of background, VIYAC is a broad based coalition of organizations and individuals committed to increasing political and civic involvement and overall voter participation of Virgin Islanders, ages 14-30. VIYAC is youth led and dedicated to educating young voters who have not been full participants in the political processes, namely the electoral and legislative systems. VIYAC aims, through civic education, voter literacy, and leadership development training, to educate youth and young adults on how to identify issues, to influence public policy and how to become a more effective participant in the democratic governance of the Virgin Islands (U.S.).

C. BACKGROUND: VIYAC was founded by **Genevieve Whitaker**, human rights activist/lawyer and university professor, who holds a Juris Doctor Degree from Stetson U. College of Law, a Master's degree in Political Management from George Washington University and a Certificate in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University; Attorney **Akeel St. Jean**, Stetson University Student Government Association President and a student of Political Science & Economics and graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law (Juris Doctor); **Dominic Latty**, a graduate of Brown University where he received dual Bachelor's degrees in Africana Studies & Computer Science and graduate of American University School of Law (Juris Doctor); and, **Amaris Chew**, a graduate of The University of the Virgin Islands, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences, who as the UVI Class of 2009 Commencement Speaker took two out of three categories for the winning team of the 2009 UVI Model U.N. Competition.

D. **STRUCTURE:**

- a. *Executive Committee and General Directors (Board Members)*
- b. *Coordinators (Individuals designated to carry out the goals of the respective programs and initiatives)*
- c. *Advisory Board (Individuals who are experts in their respective field(s) and provide the Executive Committee with direction and advice related to VIYAC's Programs and Initiatives)*

E. **PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES:**

- Programs
 - **Decolonization Education (Signature Program)**
 - Youth Radio Program
 - Civics Literacy Program: "Project Youth"
 - Civic Education Program/Human Rights & Youth Political Participation
- Initiatives
 - Youth Agenda Report Card Initiative
 - Youth Court System
 - VI Youth Perspective on the proposed Constitution
 - Youth Bill of Rights Initiative

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VIYAC FB Fan Page: <https://www.facebook.com/VIYouthAdvocacy> | Membership Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/viyacmembership/>

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