



## CONCEPT DOCUMENT

### **A. MOTTO: 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 yet to be 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, influence public policy, and become more effective participants in the democratic governance of the Virgin Islands (U.S.).

**C. BACKGROUND:** VIYAC was founded in 2009, by **Genevieve Whitaker**, a 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, a Master's Degree from Boston University in Strategic Criminal Justice Management, a Certificate in International Human Rights Law from Oxford University and Executive Leadership certificates from Oxford and Harvard universities; Attorney **Akeel St. Jean**, a graduate of Stetson University in Political Science & Economics and a 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 United Nations 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
  - **Curriculum to Uphold the Right to Education of our Students (CURES) VI Project**
  - **Self-determination Advocacy Program (Signature Program)**
  - Youth Radio Program
  - Civics & Human Rights Education Program
  - Youth Court System (Teen Court) Program
  - Climate Justice Program
- Initiatives
  - Youth Agenda Report Card Initiative
  - Youth Coding Initiative
  - Youth Bill of Rights Initiative
  - V.I./Caribbean/African History
  - Youth Court System
  - VI Youth Perspective on the proposed Constitution

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EMAIL ADDRESS: [viyouthvote@gmail.com](mailto:viyouthvote@gmail.com) | BLOG: <http://viyouthadvocates.wordpress.com/>

VIYAC FB Fan Page: <https://www.facebook.com/VIYouthAdvocacy> | Membership Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/viyacmembership/> | SCRIBD Account: <http://www.scribd.com/VIYAC> | VIYAC on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/VIYouth>

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