Welcome to the BWINTAF Network!

Welcome to the Black Women in International Affairs (BWINTAF) Network and the launch of our quarterly newsletters!

Thank you for showing interest in BWINTAF and signing up to receive updates about our work! We hope that you all are safe and well during these uncertain times and are finding moments of comfort with yourself, family and friends.

In this initial newsletter, we will share our mission and vision, an introduction to the founder of BWINTAF, Ayona Riley, updates on our Board selection and incorporation process, and the BWINTAF blog, merch and social media!
Mission and Vision

BWINTAF is driven by a vision to make the field of International Affairs more accessible, inclusive and representative across academic, professional and social settings and responsive to the needs of Black people throughout the Americas.

Our mission, to lead global change for Black people to ensure their dignity is upheld, needs are met, and they are equipped to confidently take up space within the international political arena, will center and direct strategic plans for the organization.

Meet the Founder, Ayona Riley

Thank you for being a part of the growing BWINTAF Network! Last summer, I launched Black Women in International Affairs but the idea and desire to start such an organization was on my heart and mind a year prior. In 2018, as I was navigating my own career journey, I grew tired of being the only Black woman, or one of few. After settling into the DMV area, I decided to just go for it! That led me to start the social media accounts and grow from there. Even with that millennial-esque launch, I knew from day one that BWINTAF would be more than a converging and connecting of Black women. I want Black people to become active and engaged stakeholders in the field of International Affairs. Black people need an appropriate platform that is led by us and for us so that we can truly influence and have a voice in the international political arena, and I know that BWINTAF can be one of those platforms. Thank you for supporting and showing interest in BWINTAF and I look forward to connecting with you!

BWINTAF plans to achieve our mission by implementing programming in three areas:

- Centralize technical and career information about International Affairs and create a collective space for Black women who are academically, professionally, and socially invested in the field.
- Inspire youth from underserved and under-resourced communities to choose careers in International Affairs through age-appropriate trainings and simulations.
- Implement development and outreach programs and lead global advocacy to promote and protect the dignity of Black people throughout the Americas.
Incorporation Updates

BWINTAF is determined to incorporate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit by the end of the year. To incorporate, we needed at least 3 board members, and we are happy to share that as of June, we officially have three board members! The official board announcement will be on July 7, 2020. We are still, however, considering board members as we would like 5 in total. Therefore, we will continue to interview and extend invitations to women until August.

We are looking for board members who have the willingness and time to serve on an active board. Ideal candidates will have knowledge of Black American history, American referring to the Americas; we would welcome a board member who has a law degree and; someone who has worked or works within the field of International Affairs and understands the international political arena.

If you or someone you know might be interested in being considered for our board please email the following documents to contact@bwintaf.org:

- Resume/CV
- Short bio
- A paragraph on why you would like to become a member of our board

BWINTAF Blog and Merch

In May, BWINTAF launched our blog as an informal space for Black women to e-convene and share their thoughts on topics, issues, and events within International Affairs. BWINTAF will publish an Op-Ed every Wednesday from the BWINTAF Network. If you are interested in submitting an Op-Ed, please review the Op-Ed Formatting and Submission Instructions and let us know if you have any questions!

Check out some of our recent blog posts:

- 10 ways to use the human rights framework in the BLM movement
- 5 tips for working as a consultant
- 5 skills to stand out as a job applicant

We have merch!

To view the full BWINTAF apparel and accessories inventory, visit our website at www.bwintaf.org/shop
Let's stay in touch!

BWINTAF is active on the below social media @BWINTAF and a direct link to our pages is hyperlinked on each icon!