

Reverend Al Sharpton brings decades of experience in the civil rights struggle to everything he does. He knows that to make change, you need to be organized—in the streets, the voting booth, and the halls of power.

And the National Action Network understands, as it commemorates thirty hard-fought years in the struggle, that even with all the change in our society, one thing remains the same: whenever a new opportunity opens for economic prosperity and political power, Black people are barred, by structural racism and pervasive white supremacy, from having more than a few seats at the table.

That's why it's so important that Rev. Sharpton has brought together some of the most important people working for social equity in the cannabis space. True social equity requires more than token representation. It calls for Black entrepreneurship, backed by Black capital and animated by the spirit of Black leadership.

This Wednesday, I participated in a virtual panel organized by NAN exploring social and economic justice in cannabis. Moderated by Tauhir Johnson, author of the groundbreaking Cannabis Diversity report, the panel was packed with leaders and innovators, including Melissa Moore, director of the New York State Drug Policy Alliance, and Berner, founder and CEO of the legendary Cookies dispensaries. Pioneer Wanda James, the first Black woman to own a US dispensary, and Hope Wiseman, the youngest Black woman dispensary owner, joined us. We were also joined by Viola Brands founder Al Harrington and groundbreaking cannabis philanthropist Chris Webber. We talked about how we do so much more than succeeding in cannabis—we invest back into our Black communities, which have been so deeply impacted by the war on drugs.

To hear our wide-ranging discussion, tune into “Social and Economic Justice in Cannabis” at **location** on Saturday, April 17th, 3:00-4:30 pm **time zone?**