



## **Sonia Lewis**

**Scholar, Community Organizer & Teacher  
ASCRIBE Educational Consulting**

Sonia Lewis holds dual BA degrees from Spelman College of Atlanta, GA, and has a Secondary Teaching Credential and Master's degree in Education from San Francisco State University. After spending more than 15 years in the traditional classroom teaching History/Social Studies, Sonia went on to manage a small magnet program that focused on Criminal Justice. During her time with the Criminal Justice Academy, she saw first-hand, flaws in law enforcement training, inherent implicit biases, and the negative impact on the Black community. At the height of the 2009 recession, Sonia left the traditional classroom and started ASCRIBE Educational Consulting, focusing on bridging the gaps of inequity for Black and marginalized students. The deaths of Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Michael Brown and Sandra Bland led Sonia to join the Sacramento chapter of Black Lives Matter, where she quickly became chapter lead. Her life journey now includes ways to marry educational/racial equity and social justice activism, with the goal of preparing future generations to advocate and fight for equity, representation, justice, and reparations. In pursuit of Black liberation, Sonia has been instrumental in Sacramento with organizing and leading the movement for Black lives in Sacramento, throughout California and the US. Sonia is an extended family member of Stephon Clark and has been on the frontlines of efforts to hold law enforcement accountable and move for transparency and equity from the passing of local ordinances and state legislation to demanding a seat at the table with the intention of respecting and lifting the Black lived

experience. In this moment, Sonia is striving to not only be a change agent but to influence moral witnessing and humanity, as we abolish the old normative and narrative that centers white supremacy and privilege.

Since state and federal orders of sanctuary (sheltering) has gone into place due to COVID-19, Sonia has designed and maintained a virtual classroom that is Black centered and culturally responsive to the needs of all students because the Black lived experience is often excluded from Social Studies curriculum, called "Teach-In Time for REVOLUTIONARY Minds. In this safe space, students are able to dissect and discuss the truth about walking in Black skin. The responses from students and parents, hands down is we need to find a way to keep this program going. So, the mission to acquire funding has now become a priority. These are critical times, and it is with urgency that we leverage collective responsibility for the most fragile, marginalized and traumatized in community. It's not enough to not be a racist, we all have to be anti-racist.