

Press Release  
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**Safe Virtual Workplaces Are Essential for Black Workers, #BlackWFH Calls On Corporate Leaders to Re-Imagine Anti-Discrimination Policies for Remote Work in the Era of Social-Distancing**

In the wake of COVID-19 and social distancing, companies must adapt their policies and systems to protect Black teleworkers.

- Companies need to re-imagine anti-discrimination policies and processes fit for the virtual workplace.
- HR directors must make online tools available to confidentially report, track complaints.
- Wednesday, June 10, 2020 will be Black Teleworkers' Day. Black workers will use #BlackWFH to tell their stories of navigating the virtual workplace.

Ronnell Perry, Founder of Young, Black & Working From Home hopes to start a global conversation about the safety of Black employees in the virtual workplace. On June 10, 2020, a network of influencers will use #BlackWFH to tell their stories of navigating discrimination in the virtual workplace. As social-distancing guidelines force companies to widely enact WFH policies, the safety of Black workers must be prioritized.

“Despite working in my own space, I have felt unsafe collaborating online. It started after I was victim of online racial discrimination by a co-worker. I have not felt safe since then. And the reporting process revictimized me.”

Black teleworkers feel liberated and energized working from home due to COVID-19. They are finding ways to navigate a virtual workplace, but the burden of anti-Blackness and institutional racism won't simply dissolve into the digital ether. There's work that employers must do to fix it.

“Not even the digital realm can protect Black teleworkers like me from discrimination. Digital touch points and vulnerabilities have multiplied in this new environment where showing up to work means that I must be visible on-screen, or that I should be available at all times; aspects that increase my susceptibility to discrimination.”

Companies need to re-imagine anti-discrimination policies and complaint processes fit for a virtual workplace. Laptops and teleconference software do not intrinsically provide a safer workplace.

Young, Black, & Working From Home, is a social movement that spurs conversations about the challenges and opportunities of Black teleworking professionals as they experiment with working and living in the same space. Started as a lifestyle platform, it has quickly transformed into a resource for facilitating difficult conversations about abolishing anti-Black racism in the virtual workplace. To join the movement visit [blackwfh.com](http://blackwfh.com), and follow hashtag #blackwfh.

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