

VIRGIN ISLANDS RASTAFARI SACRAMENTAL CANNABIS COUNCIL

V.I.R.S.C.C

EQUITY PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Due to extreme persecution of the Rastafari Nations for the use and cultivation within the sacraments of Cannabis- the unified bodies of said nations humbly ask for consideration and affluence within the Equity Programs construction. Within the newly rising industry and commerce of Cannabis (Ganja) Equity Programs have begun to be implemented into several states with the target reprobate being “ratification for the damage done by the war on drugs”. Within in our local islands and nation, we have endured much persecution for our Sacramental Rights to use Cannabis and we seek to gain cooperation and endorsement to declare and retain our rights for inclusion and Equity within the new laws and industry.

Within this we also ask that the people of Virgin Islands be given an extended period to establish this industry locally and to not allow outside or foreign investment until the local establishments have been finalized.

With a trillion-dollar industry being granted to our nation, we recognize the amount of coercion and exploitation that has the potential to enter as well as how imperative it is to lead with education of our people. To minimize the risk of Predatory Investors, predatory contracts and unscrupulous exploitation, an extended safety net of time must be exerted for the benefit of locals.

As a non-profit entity- *Virgin Islands Rastafari Sacramental Cannabis Council* is registered with Lieutenant Governor’s Office and will legitimize each of its members with documentation of their clear rights to use Cannabis as a Rastafari under Religious acts as well as provide membership card to identify its members.

Church Rastafari Organizations include-

- a. The Theocracy Reign of the Ancient Divine Order of The Nyahbinghi
- b. The Ethiopian African Black International Congress (Bobo Shanti)
- c. The Ethiopian World Federation Inc.

All documentation and rules within this body are under strict governance by the V.I.R.S.C.C., all endemic information will be deemed Intellectual Property of said body.

For consideration we ask that the following aspects be insighted as Sovereign Rights of the Rastafari Nations in pertinence to Cannabis Industry Social Equity Program.

1. Exemption from cost of permitting or Licensure to participate and or apply to Cannabis Industry.
2. Educational Grants- Due to the remote location of USVI it is of utmost importance to implement Educational Grants to offer Equity applicants prior to and during licensing process. Procuring both online and in person education on the building and operating of Cannabis business as well as OSHA, Health and Safety, Cultivation, Manufacturing, Distribution, Marketing, Documentation, Best Practices, and all other aspects projected to be a potential failure point for new entries in Cannabis commerce.
3. Business Grants- Access and priority funding for state funded small business grants and loans including mentorship for financial navigation. This partnered with education will ensure the Rastafari Nation Equity and Inclusion.
4. Land Grants/Water Rights-
Access and priority placement of State funded agricultural land and retail space to Rastafari permitting process. With lease or granting of water rights within. All federal granted land permission to add Cannabis or Hemp to its allocated Agricultural crop agreements.
5. Priority Licensing- All applicants for Cannabis Equity Program in USVI deemed a member of Rastafari Nation be given priority licensing within all aspects of Vertical Integrated business model. If jurisdictions disagreements occur with outside investors or new business owners in potential business areas- those that use Cannabis in sacrament, be given priority compassion as their sovereign right.
6. Tax Reductions & Eliminations-
VIRSCC operates as a non-profit religious entity. Members that apply for Equity permitting of any form in Cannabis, be given a substantial tax deduction if not

eliminated tax for a set period of time to further ensure the financial stability of Equity applicant business launch. Creation of “Agricultural Co-operatives”.

7. Rasta Cultural Center- Access to procure funded Lease for the Preservation of Rastafari Culture Center. With funding for a religious location for localized events, rituals, ceremonies, rites and education the creation of this community center would further preserve the cultural heritage as well as provide a base for local Farmers Markets and equity building applications. Any and all procurements of Cannabis and infusions or otherwise used within this religious vessel are deemed religious rights of Rastafari Nation and completely based upon donations to said sacramental body. This Center would also act as an educational base or museum for tourists and visitors to learn about our true local Rastafari culture.
8. Home Grow Rights- Sacramental Use of Cannabis within Rastafari nations be a continued respected aspect and to allow for the private use, cultivation, infusion manufacturing of sacred Cannabis oils and elements without regard for permitting. Within reasonable rates of manufacturing for personal and religious consumption.
9. Full Integration- All Registered Rastafari be considered allowed as “Co-operative “permitting-Creating Fully Integrated Business Models with respect to Rastafari Community- each member permitted to one or multiple licenses within supply chain therefore ensuring a local cycle for procurements within members of religious community.
10. Intellectual property Rights Grants- Grants and educational assistance to procure and protect the Intellectual Property Rights of Rastafari trade secrets.
11. Rights to Advertise and seek endorsements- We seek the right to advertise locally and internationally, the Cannabis products and businesses found within our organization as well as seek vetted endorsements from outside sources.
12. Amnesty Program- All those incarcerated for the use, sales or cultivation of Cannabis be released, exonerated, and given access to funding.

Summary

During these unprecedented times of evolution within the space of Cannabis you can see that every state within the United States has deemed certain financial space for those that have been persecuted during Cannabis prohibition. For reference, please see Los Angeles California Cannabis Equity Platforms ([Cannabis.lacity.org/social-equity-program/about-program](https://cannabis.lacity.org/social-equity-program/about-program)) as well as several other states including New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Florida, etc. The governing parameters have initiated a concept of granting funding to qualifying applicants as well as education that is endemic and specific to their areas. We must duplicate this concept by creating our own unique educational basis locally.

It is important to align with the Proposal of Equity programs to better create Equity Grants, outlines and education that fit our Sovereign nation and situation. After enduring lifetimes of persecution for our use of Cannabis, it is the community goal. With business proposals being the highlighted point of entry into licensing, we must identify the funds that may be available to each potential start up or participant. We feel that to distribute funds and assist in the building of Rastafari businesses it is of importance to first create the parameters of which to work within fairly and evenly.

With the creation of these programs, we can then focus on the business education of those interested in participating and have a verified process to guide them through. With the merit of each applicant being scrutinized by not only the Rastafari community but also the local body of government ensuring a positive integration into the local society.

We appreciate your time in considering our needs in respect to the newly developing platforms of local commerce and we seek to achieve legitimate symbiosis within all islands and governing bodies. We thank you and extend blessings and respect.