

Black Feminist Social Work™

Founder's Statement

Documenting the Origins, Purpose, and Conceptual Foundation of the Framework

Version 1.0

July 19, 2026

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blackfeministsocialwork.org

BLACK FEMINIST SOCIAL WORK

A Founder's Statement and Framework Overview

Vanessa Talley, LCSW · Founder and Framework Developer

Founding and Authorship

Black Feminist Social Work™ is an educational and conceptual framework currently disseminated through scholarly media, community dialogue, and curriculum development. I originate the framework's theoretical architecture, its instructional design, and its episode content. This statement, dated July 19, 2026, serves as a formal, time-stamped record of that authorship, to accompany the project as it moves from public media into formal academic channels.

The framework's public record begins with Season 1, Episode 1, released to establish the project's theoretical grounding and pedagogical intent. All subsequent episodes, companion materials, and curriculum documents build forward from that foundation, which continues to be developed under my authorship and intellectual direction as the framework's founder.

Purpose and Rationale

Black Feminist Social Work™ was developed to address a persistent gap in social work education and practice: the absence of a sustained, theoretically anchored curriculum that centers Black women's epistemologies as foundational to clinical and macro social work practice, rather than as supplementary or illustrative material. The framework is designed to move from public accessibility toward institutional legitimacy, using a backward-design methodology so that instructional content is built in direct alignment with intended learning outcomes and with the Council on Social Work Education's Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (CSWE EPAS).

Framework Definition

Black Feminist Social Work™ (BFSW) is a conceptual framework that centers Black women's lived experiences, knowledge, wisdom, and liberatory traditions as foundational to social work theory, education, research, policy, and practice. This framework is grounded in Black Feminist Thought while remaining anchored in the profession's ethical commitments to social justice, social change, respect and dignity, and the importance of human connections. Black Feminist Social Work™ not only recognizes but honors Black women as producers of knowledge whose lived experiences generate theory, inform practice, and advance collective healing. In centering Black women's ways of knowing, the framework not only attempts to address oppression but also actively works at cultivating healing, liberation, and transformative social change.

This definition is original to the framework and dated to this statement. It is offered here and serves as the framework's foundational definition for future scholarly and educational use in curriculum documents, academic proposals, and public materials.

Praxis and Scholarship

Black Feminist Social Work™ is conceived simultaneously as praxis and as intended scholarship. As praxis, it is enacted through the video series, community dialogue, and clinical application; the framework is lived and practiced before it is formally taught. As scholarship, it is built toward peer review, curriculum adoption, and academic dissemination, using backward design and CSWE EPAS alignment so that it can withstand the standards of formal academic evaluation. The framework's development deliberately refuses a separation between theory and practice, consistent with the Black feminist epistemological tradition it draws from: knowledge generated through lived experience and applied practice is treated as legitimate theoretical contribution, not merely as illustration of theory developed elsewhere.

Theoretical Lineage

The framework draws explicitly and deliberately on the following bodies of thought, which together constitute its intellectual foundation:

- Patricia Hill Collins's theorization of Black feminist thought and the matrix of domination
- bell hooks's writing on love, power, and liberatory pedagogy
- Kimberlé Crenshaw's framework of intersectionality
- Africana womanist thought as a culturally situated alternative to mainstream feminist theory
- Anti-oppressive practice frameworks within social work theory and clinical training

The framework integrates these traditions into an original model for social work education, research, and practice. Black Feminist Social Work™ represents an original conceptual framework that translates Black feminist epistemology into a coherent model for social work theory, education, research, policy, and practice. This synthesis, and its translation into episode content, learning outcomes, and companion documentation, is the specific intellectual contribution I am asserting authorship over.

Structure of the Work

The project currently comprises a produced video series hosted on YouTube, a companion Facebook group that extends discussion and community engagement beyond each episode, and a developing curriculum map that includes a theoretical framework statement, terminal learning outcomes, CSWE competency alignment, and episode-by-episode companion documentation. The curriculum is being built concurrently with production, rather than retrofitted afterward, so that each episode is created with its instructional and academic function already defined.

Original Contributions of the Framework

- The original intellectual contributions of Black Feminist Social Work™ currently include:
- The conceptual definition of Black Feminist Social Work™
- The Four C's framework (Contextualizing, Centering, Co-Creating, and Changing)
- The integration of Black feminist epistemology into social work education
- The development of curriculum aligned with CSWE competencies
- The translation of Black feminist scholarship into clinical, community, research, and policy applications

Intended Attribution

For any citation, reference, syllabus adoption, continuing education proposal, or academic partnership involving this material, the appropriate attribution is:

Founder's Statement

Talley, V. (2026). *Black Feminist Social Work™: Founder's Statement and Framework Overview*.

Video Series

Talley, V. (2026). *Black Feminist Social Work™* [Video series]. *Black Feminist Social Work*

This statement may be posted publicly on the project's YouTube channel and Facebook group as the project's official 'About' or founding statement and may be incorporated into the curriculum companion packet as the framework's authorship and provenance record.

Framework Status

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This document represents the initial public articulation of Black Feminist Social Work™ as an educational and conceptual framework. Subsequent revisions will document the framework's continued scholarly development while preserving this original statement as the historical record of its introduction.

Vanessa Talley, LCSW, MSW

Founder, Black Feminist Social Work

Statement dated: July 19, 2026

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